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# Mueller probe finds no collusion

Dems press DOJ to release entire report on Russia

By ERIC TUCKER,  
MICHAEL BALSAMO, CHAD DAY  
AND JULIE PACE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON—Special counsel Robert Mueller did not find evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign "conspired or coordinated" with Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election but reached no conclusion on whether Trump obstructed justice, Attorney General William Barr declared. That brought a hearty claim of vindication from Trump but set the stage for new rounds of political and legal fighting.

Trump cheered the Sunday outcome but also laid bare his resentment after two years of investigations that have shadowed his administration. "It's a shame that our country has had to go through this. To be honest, it's a shame that your president has had to go through this," he said.

Democrats said that Mueller found evidence for and against obstruction and demanded to see his full report. They insisted that even the summary by the president's attorney general hardly put him in the clear. Trump indicated Monday he would be open to the release of the report.

Mueller's conclusions, summarized by Barr in a four-page letter to Congress, represented a victory for Trump on a key question that has hung over his presidency from the start: Did his campaign work with Russia to defeat Democrat Hillary Clinton? That was further good news for the president on top of the Justice Department's earlier announcement that Mueller had wrapped his investigation without new indictments. The resolution also could deflate the hopes of Democrats in Congress and on the 2020 campaign trail that incriminating findings from Mueller would hobble the president's agenda and re-election bid.

SEE REPORT ON PAGE 7



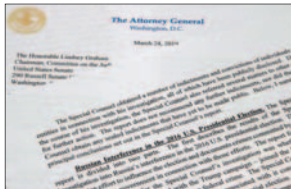
ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump waves after speaking with media outside the White House on Sunday.



CLIFF OWEN/AP

Special counsel Robert Mueller walks past the White House after attending church services in Washington on Sunday.



JOHNSON/REUTERS

This letter from Attorney General William Barr to Congress summarizes the conclusions reached by special counsel Robert Mueller.

Findings lift cloud that has hung over Trump for 2 years

By JULIE PACE  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The cloud that has hung over President Donald Trump since the day he walked into the White House has been lifted.

Yes, special counsel Robert Mueller left open the question of whether Trump tried to obstruct the investigation. Yes, separate federal probes still put Trump and his associates in legal jeopardy. And

yes, Democrats will spend the coming months pushing for more details from Mueller, all while launching new probes into Trump's administration and businesses.

At its core, Mueller's investigation gave the president what he wanted: public affirmation that he and his campaign did not coordinate with Russia to win the 2016 election. After spending months tweeting "No collusion," Trump has been proven right.

The findings, summarized Sunday by the Justice Department, are sure to embolden Trump as he plunges into his re-election campaign, armed now with new fodder to claim the investigation was little more than a politically motivated effort to undermine his presidency.

"It's a shame that our country has had to go through this," Trump said. "To be honest, it's a shame that your president has had to go through this."

Mueller's investigation stretched on for nearly two years, enveloping Trump's presidency in a cloud of uncertainty and sending him into frequent fits of rage. The scope of the probe was sweeping. Mueller issued more than 2,800 subpoenas, obtained nearly 500 search warrants and interviewed 500 witnesses, including some of the president's closest advisers.

Trump's ultimate vindication on the question of collusion with Russia came at a steep cost.

SEE FINDINGS ON PAGE 8

Report reprieve becomes Trump's re-election weapon

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Some key takeaways from Mueller's Russia findings

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PACIFIC

# Some N. Korean staff return to liaison office

**By KIM GAMEL**  
*Stars and Stripes*

SEOUL, South Korea — North Korea sent staff back to the liaison office it shares with the South on Monday, the Unification Ministry said, days after the communist state withdrew from the facility in apparent frustration over slow progress in inter-Korean initiatives and stalled nuclear talks with the United States.

The return, limited to four or five staffers, followed President Donald Trump's decision to reverse plans to impose new economic sanctions against North Korea, which experts said was likely to be seen as an olive branch

by leader Kim Jong Un.

The North Korean officials held a meeting with their South Korean counterparts, the Unification Ministry said, adding that the delegation was smaller than usual and it was unclear whether operations were being fully restored.

The North Korean side said it remains committed to the liaison office "to carry out projects in line with the North-South joint declaration," according to the ministry.

The liaison office in the town of Kaesong, which is near the heavily fortified border that divides the peninsula, opened in September as a venue to discuss exchanges and cooperation stemming from the agreement reached by Kim

and South Korean President Moon Jae-in during their first meeting last April.

The two sides began several cross-border initiatives and cultural exchanges, but reconciliation efforts have stalled along with the stalemate in talks between Washington and Pyongyang over efforts to persuade the North to give up its nuclear weapons.

Fears of new tensions have risen since a second U.S.-North Korean summit ended early last month after Trump and Kim failed to agree on how to narrow differences over demands for sanctions relief in exchange for steps toward denuclearization.

Washington has insisted it will

maintain economic pressure on the North, and the Treasury Department on Thursday imposed punishing measures against two Chinese shipping companies accused of helping the North.

But Trump tweeted Friday that he was changing plans to impose additional sanctions.

"It was announced today by the U.S. Treasury that additional large scale Sanctions would be added to those already existing Sanctions on North Korea. I have today ordered the withdrawal of those additional Sanctions!" he wrote.

U.S. officials later clarified that Trump was not referring to Thursday's announcement but rather to additional North Korea sanctions

under consideration but not yet formally issued.

"President Trump likes Chairman Kim, and he doesn't think these sanctions will be necessary," White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders told reporters.

North Korea didn't provide a clear explanation for the return.

The staff left Friday after saying the decision was "in accordance with instructions from the superior authority," according to the ministry.

Stars and Stripes reporter Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this report.  
gamel.kim@stripes.com  
Twitter: @kimgamel

# Swedes keep room ready for US diplomats in Pyongyang

**By ERIC TALMADGE**  
*Associated Press*

PYONGYANG, North Korea — Swedish diplomats are keeping a room ready for the U.S. to use if it ever decides to have an official presence in the North Korean capital.

The unmarked, slightly musty room next to the Swedish ambassador's office in Pyongyang's diplomatic quarter has been kept in an odd state of limbo for years.

On one shelf sits an issue of the Pyongyang Times from the days of detente between the late leader Kim Jong Il and President Bill Clinton. The top shelf is taken up by a newer edition — with a photo of the North's current leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald Trump on its front page.

The room has more or less remained in this condition since a 1995 agreement that provided for the Swedes to serve as Washington's "protective power" in North Korea. There were a lot of talks going on between the U.S. and North Korea at the time, and it seemed like a good idea to prepare some



SWEDISH EMBASSY/AP

**The building that houses the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang, North Korea, is shown. Swedish diplomats have kept a room ready for the United States to use.**

sort of a foothold since the U.S. had no diplomatic relations with the North and thus no embassy of its own.

With the U.S. and North Korea engaged in the most serious talks since the little possibility of actually giving those years

room an American tenant has returned to the negotiating table.

A proposal to establish a liaison office in Pyongyang was floated ahead of the first summit between Trump and Kim in Singapore in June. Trump seemed to support it again as he sat down for talks with Kim at the second summit, in Vietnam last month, though the meeting ended without any significant agreements.

The room at the embassy, which The Associated Press was allowed to see but for security reasons not photograph, would be used as an "interest section" for the United States.

In diplomat speak, that would make it one step below a liaison office, which is one step below an actual embassy.

They are generally set up between countries that don't formally recognize each other and have tense relations but require some form of working contact.

Like the one described in the agreement with Sweden, interest sections are normally established in the embassy of a third coun-

try that has diplomatic relations with both sides. The U.S. has maintained interest sections in places such as Cuba during the Cold War and Iran.

Washington and Pyongyang have talked about opening liaison offices before, but the talks were put on indefinite hold in 1995.

One of the big hurdles to talks is the fact that North Korea and the United States are technically at war — the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty.

There are other, smaller problems as well.

Pyongyang doesn't have a big foreign diplomatic presence.

The Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang — along with the British Embassy — is located on the premises of the German Embassy. Setting up an interest section wouldn't necessarily require major changes in that arrangement, but under the current agreement Sweden would no longer be responsible for U.S. interests once a liaison office is established.

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EUROPE

KRISTI KIMMEL | CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

KRISTI KIMMEL | CustomerService@stripes.com | +49 (0) 0631.3615.9111 DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ICHIRO KATAYANAGI | CustomerHelp@Stripes.com | +81(0) 6385.3267 DSN 315.229.3267

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## EUROPE'S TOP 25 CASTLES

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# STARS AND STRIPES

THURSDAY, MARCH 28.

## MILITARY

# For third month, US sails through Taiwan Strait

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS  
Stars and Stripes

**YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan** — The Navy has sailed a destroyer between mainland China and Taiwan for the third month in a row, contentious passages meant to ensure vessels can freely navigate there.

The USS Curtis Wilbur and U.S. Coast Guard cutter Bertholf passed through the Taiwan Strait overnight Sunday into Monday “in accordance with international law,” said 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Kelley.

China protests U.S. warships sailing through the approximately 100-mile-wide strait without first seeking its permission; however, the U.S. insists the strait is an international waterway.

This week’s passage was the fifth time in six months that U.S. warships have made the journey.

The USS Stethem and cargo ship USNS Cesar Chavez passed through last month. The USS McCampbell and fleet replenishment oiler USNS Walter S. Diehl sailed there in January. The USS

Stockdale and replenishment oiler USNS Pecos passed through in November, and the USS Curtis Wilbur and USS Antietam sailed the strait in October.

Before October, there had been only one Taiwan Strait transit reported in more than a year.

“The ships’ transit through the Taiwan Strait demonstrates the U.S. commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific,” Keiley said. “The U.S. will continue to fly, sail and operate anywhere international law allows.”

Beijing’s reunification with Taiwan “has served as the primary driver for China’s military modernization,” concluded a January Defense Intelligence Agency report on China’s military power.

The report detailed the Chinese military’s technological advances and said the country’s “anticipation that foreign forces would intervene in a Taiwan scenario led the [Chinese military] to develop a range of systems to deter and deny foreign regional force projection.”

In January, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson



JEREMY GRAHAM/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

**The destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur takes part in an exercise in the Philippine Sea on March 10. The Curtis Wilbur sailed through the Taiwan Strait over the weekend, the third such passage by U.S. military vessels in three months.**

toled Chinese Gen. Li Zuocheng, chief of the military’s Joint Staff Department, that the U.S. is committed to the One China policy acknowledging Taiwan is part of China.

However, Beijing has expressed skepticism.

“If anyone wants to separate Taiwan from China, the Chinese military will safeguard the national unity at all costs, so as to protect China’s sovereignty and territorial integrity,” Li said during their meeting, according to the South China Morning Post.

The cutter Bertholf, which ar-

rived March 3 at Sasebo Naval Base, Japan, recently wrapped up a mission enforcing United Nations sanctions against North Korea.

The U.N. Security Council has imposed a number of economic sanctions on the North in response to its developing nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

The Coast Guard helps enforce those sanctions by keeping a lookout for prohibited ship-to-ship transfers of fuel, such as coal, and goods.

doornbos.caitlin@stripes.com  
Twitter: @CaitlinDoornbos

## AFRICOM to assist in Mozambique after storm

By JOHN VANDIVER  
Stars and Stripes

**STUTTGART, Germany** — U.S. military personnel were headed to Mozambique on Monday to assess damage and plan a relief mission aided by U.S. Africa Command in connection with deadly floods that swept through the region.

President Donald Trump directed the military on Sunday to support humanitarian efforts in Mozambique after more than 700 people died as a result of a March 14 cyclone that has caused widespread flooding through a region stretching from Mozambique to Zimbabwe and Malawi.

U.S. Africa Command is actively monitoring and assessing the situation while positioning assets to support the Government of the Republic of Mozambique,” AFRICOM chief Gen. Thomas Waldhauser said in a statement. “We are actively working with the Department of Defense, interagency partners, and Government of the Republic of Mozambique to provide assistance.”

The devastating tropical storm made landfall in Beira, a port city on the coast of Mozambique, with 110 mph winds that brought huge rains and submerged villages as it moved inland toward Zimbabwe and Malawi.

The Pentagon authorized AFRICOM to expend up to \$6.5 million in relief funds to provide logistics support for up to 10 days. The military’s role will be to assist the U.S. Agency for International Development in the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

“The scope of logistics support includes airlift of relief materials, responders and third-party personnel,” the Pentagon said in a statement Sunday.

AFRICOM has put its Daboute-based Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa in charge of the relief effort. A team from the task force was en route to Mozambique on Monday to conduct initial assessments.

“DOD is prepared to help save lives and alleviate the suffering with timely and significant assistance that meets the requirements identified by USAID assessment teams and by humanitarian organizations working in the region,” AFRICOM said.

vandiver.john@stripes.com  
Twitter: @john\_vandiver

# Soldier to be honored for saving child from dog

By MATTHEW KEELER  
Stars and Stripes

**CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea** — A soldier with the 2nd Infantry Division will be recognized Thursday by the city of Pyeongtaek for diverting an aggressive dog away from a Korean girl and taking the brunt of the canine’s attack.

After the Feb. 12 attack, Spc. Jonathan Roman Rios received preventative rabies treatment at Master Sgt. Henry L. Jenkins Patient Centered Medical Home on Camp Humphreys.

The dog — described by Roman as a white, medium-sized husky — fixated on a Korean woman and a young girl on the street outside the camp pedestrian gate, he said.

Roman, a native of Puerto Rico assigned to the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division, had just gotten off duty for the day and was headed to a barbecue with friends when he noticed the dog barking at the woman and girl.

“I just saw a dog, but I saw that he was acting crazy,” he told Stars and Stripes on Monday. “I thought maybe he was just playing, but as I got closer I could see he was mad and agitated.”

Roman, the father of two chil-



MATT KEELER/Stars and Stripes

**Spc. Jonathan Roman Rios, shown at Camp Humphreys, South Korea, on Monday, is being recognized for fending off a dog that was behaving aggressively toward a Korean woman and a young girl.**

dren, believed the girl was in danger and said he felt he had to act.

He described what happened next:

Using his backpack as a decoy, Roman managed to attract the dog’s attention. It bit into the pack and hung on while the woman and girl ran off.

Roman fought with the dog for several minutes, trying to re-

trieve his backpack in one piece and make a run for it. He also shouted to nearby pedestrians to get back. Then the dog struck.

“The dog was either too fast or I was too slow, but he bit into the backside of my leg just below the calf muscle,” he said.

Another woman nearby saw the attack and began screaming; Roman said he quickly tried to calm her.

He used his backpack once more to push the dog away and escaped. Putting a brick fence between himself and the dog, he warned other pedestrians to stay away.

Roman said someone who may have been the dog’s owner came and secured the animal to a chain.

He said he received rabies shots — a standard treatment after dog bites — every four or five days for three weeks. His bite wounds were the size of half-dollars.

Col. Brian Watkins, commander of the 2nd Combat Aviation Brigade, lauded Roman for his actions that day.

“The evidence of a Soldier’s personal courage is in the actions they make, whether on or off duty,” he said in an emailed statement. “SPC Roman is the true representation of U.S. Forces Korea and [South Korean] spirit of Katchi Kapshida! [We go together]!”

Pyeongtaek city officials notified the division that Roman would be recognized for his actions at a ceremony at the mayor’s office.

“People ask me why I did what I did; I was just taking care of others,” Roman said. “I feel so honored.”

keeler.matthew@stripes.com

## WAR ON TERRORISM

# UN: US bombs killed 10 children in Kunduz clashes

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN  
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Thirteen civilians, including 10 children, have been killed by a coalition airstrike in Afghanistan's Kunduz province, according to a preliminary report from the United Nations released Monday.

The Saturday morning airstrike, near the provincial capital of the same name, also injured several civilians, the U.N. Assistance Mission in Afghanistan said in a statement.

"The Mission expresses serious concern that initial fact-finding indicates that 10 of those killed were children, part of the same extended family," it said.

The U.S. is the only member of the international coalition known to conduct airstrikes in the country, though the Afghan security forces also conduct strikes of their own.

Last month, the UNAMA reported a sharp increase in civilian casualties from airstrikes in 2018, compared with the year before. In its latest annual report on civilian casualties in the country, the mission expressed particular concern about child casualties from airstrikes, which it said have been increasing every year since 2014.

The United States dropped more bombs and other munitions in Afghanistan last year than in any other full year since documentation began in 2006, according to Air Force data. The trend appears to be continuing this year, with the number of weapons released in January surpassing

the highest tally for that particular month.

A spokeswoman for U.S. Forces — Afghanistan, which routinely disputes the number of civilian casualties attributed to its strikes by the UNAMA, told several news agencies over the weekend that the U.S. had conducted a strike in the Kunduz area on Saturday, which was reportedly part of a 30-hour battle. When asked Monday, however, Sgt. 1st Class Debra Richardson, the spokeswoman, did not answer questions about the incident, saying the military had "no new information to release" because it was investigating.

Operations against the Taliban in Kunduz began last week, local officials said, but have since been stalled.

"After the incident in which civilians were killed, the military operations were halted," provincial council member Aminullah Aydin told Stars and Stripes on Monday. The civilian deaths prompted demonstrations on Saturday, he said.

"People in the province are still angry about the deaths, but the security situation in Kunduz is also worrying," Aydin said. "We want military operations to fight the Taliban, but the airstrikes need to be more accurate."

The provincial capital is the country's fifth-largest city and has long been the focus of Taliban ambitions to extend their territorial control, which included more than 12 percent of the country's 407 districts but no major urban areas, a military assessment in October found.

The insurgents have twice in-



BASHIR KHAN SAPI/AP

**Men stand over bodies during a protest in Kunduz province in northern Afghanistan on Saturday in which protesters claimed the victims had been killed during a military operation. A United Nations report said 13 civilians were killed by a coalition airstrike Saturday.**

filtrated the city in major attacks, including in October 2015 when they overran and briefly held it. A mistaken U.S. strike at the time destroyed a Doctors Without Borders trauma hospital, killing 42 people. Early on, the military had claimed Taliban fighters were holed up in the facility and using it as a command center, though Doctors Without Borders disputed those claims.

Kunduz was again targeted by the insurgents the following October and parts of the city were overrun, but the U.S. sent "multiple assets," including Special Forces, to help repel the attack. Afghan airstrikes also pushed back the Taliban advance.

U.S. and Afghan troops in the province last week were fighting in a "complex environment," while the Taliban were hiding in civilian homes and "maneuvering in and out of compounds without any concern for the families living

inside," Richardson, the military spokeswoman, told The New York Times on Saturday. The previous day, two American troops were killed in an operation in the province. A coalition Afghan and coalition ground force was fired on at close range from a checkpoint and from two other directions, Richardson said.

The military was aware of reports of noncombatant casualty claims from the latest strike, Richardson said, but the U.S. maintains the right to "engage the enemy in self-defense and we take every measure to prevent civilian casualties, even as the Taliban intentionally hide behind women and children."

She also suggested that the Taliban may have coerced witnesses through beatings to allege civilians were killed.

The Pentagon has identified the two U.S. servicemembers killed on Friday as Spc. Joseph P. Col-

lette, 29, an explosive ordnance disposal technician from Lancaster, Ohio, and Sgt. 1st Class Will D. Lindsay, 33, a Green Beret from Cortez, Colo.

The deaths raise to four the number of American troops killed in Afghanistan this year and come as Washington continues direct talks with the Taliban aimed at ending the U.S.' longest war, now in its 18th year. But the negotiations don't appear to be preventing the uptick in violence traditionally seen in the spring.

Also on Friday, Taliban insurgents killed 33 government troops in Sangin district in southern Helmand province, officials said. In a separate incident in the province, a Taliban bombing at a festival killed three people and wounded 30.

Zubair Babakhalil contributed to this report.  
wellman.phillip@stars.com  
Twitter: @pwwellman

## Syrian group urges international tribunal for ISIS detainees

By SARAH EL DEEB  
Associated Press

BEIRUT — The U.S.-backed Syrian fighters who drove Islamic State from its last strongholds called Monday for an international tribunal to prosecute hundreds of foreigners rounded up in the nearly five-year campaign against the extremist group.

The administration affiliated with the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces said such a tribunal is needed "for justice to take its course," particularly after countries have refused to bring home their detained nationals. The SDF has captured more than 1,000 foreign fighters, including many from Western countries.

"We don't have other options," Abdulkarim Umer, a foreign affairs official in the Kurdish-led administration, told The Associated Press. "No one wanted to take the responsibility (of repatriating their nationals). We can't put up with this burden alone."

Western countries have largely refused



MAYA ALLENUEZA/AP

**U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces stand in formation at a ceremony Saturday at al-Omar Oil Field base, Syria, to mark their defeat of Islamic State militants.**

to take back their detained citizens, fearing they would not be able to convict them in civilian courts and that they could pose a security risk. The problem has grown

more urgent since President Donald Trump announced his intention to reduce the U.S. military presence in Syria, where American forces are fighting alongside the SDF.

"It is an exceptional situation and we are looking at an exceptional framework," Ilham Ahmed, the head of the political arm of the SDF, told the AP. "We are dealing with a failed state. In this case we can treat the (Kurdish-administered) region as an exception."

Umer said foreign fighters should be tried where their crimes occurred and where they were detained. "The international community has evaded its responsibility, so we ask that they help us set up the court here," he said.

The SDF has been fighting ISIS since 2014 and has retaken large areas in northern and eastern Syria. Its administration is not recognized internationally or by the Syrian government, which has vowed to bring all the country's territory back under its control.

The Kurdish-led administration has

asked the government to grant it autonomy in a new constitution, something Damascus has roundly rejected.

Nadim Houry, the director of the counterterrorism program at Human Rights Watch, said "it is hard to imagine" setting up an international tribunal on sovereign territory without that country's approval. Previous efforts to get Security Council backing for international tribunals for crimes committed in Syria have failed, mostly because of vetoes by Russia, a main ally of Damascus.

Houry said a major legal concern would be trying people for the same crimes in different courts depending on their nationality.

He said that while the U.S.-led coalition has provided military aid to the SDF, it has done nothing to help develop the local judiciary.

"It is a fair call on the [SDF]'s part to say this should be an international responsibility, but so far the path to such help is unclear."

## PACIFIC

## Surviving veterans of Iwo Jima reunited

BY MATTHEW M. BURKE  
Stars and Stripes

**M**IWO JIMA, Japan  
Marine Gunnery Sgt.  
Robert Van Camp  
carried a small  
American flag in his  
pocket as he led a 4th Marine  
Division mortar section inland  
from Blue Beach during the  
February 1945 Battle of Iwo  
Jima.

Van Camp was wounded in the  
legs by shrapnel but survived the  
fighting. Afterward, he never dis-  
cussed what happened during the  
bloody fight for the Japanese is-  
land fortress. His family had only  
the letters he sent home to offer  
any insight.

His son, retired Marine Capt.  
Robert W. Van Camp, carried that  
same faded flag back to the  
island, now called Iwo To, with  
his three adult children on Satur-  
day for the 74th Reunion of Honor  
ceremony to find the understand-  
ing that had eluded him while his  
father was alive.

The elder Van Camp died of  
prostate cancer in 1976. His son,  
now 87 and living in San Juan Is-  
lands, Wash., offered a slice of his  
father's experience.

"He was in a foxhole with four  
other men when a mortar landed  
next to him and it was a dud; it did  
not explode, and his letter back to  
my mother was, 'Had that gone  
off, I wouldn't be here today,'" the  
younger Van Camp said.

The elder Van Camp also  
killed two Japanese soldiers who  
jumped into the foxhole at night  
while he was on guard duty.

"I'm here in remembrance,"  
the younger Van Camp said. "He  
was a marvelous man."

Van Camp was among several  
hundred people allowed onto the  
island, now a Japanese military  
base, on Saturday for the annual  
reunification ceremony.

Also present were a dozen of  
the dwindling number of U.S. vet-  
erans of the battle.

### The 'lucky' ones

Marine and Navy veterans  
in attendance were emotional as  
they recalled the battle's carnage  
as well as the friends they lost.

"I just lasted nine days here,"  
said Thiele Harvey Jr., who as a  
private first class rescued a fel-  
low Marine under withering fire  
from an ambush and was award-  
ed the Silver Star. "It was hell. I  
was lucky I guess; hand grenades  
got me."

For Bruce Heilman, who crash-  
landed on the island as a sergeant  
with the 2nd Marine Air Wing,  
coming back to Iwo Jima was  
bittersweet.

"I had a lot of Marine buddies  
killed here," he said. "For 74  
years, these guys have been dead,  
and I've been having family and  
marriages and success. You think  
about that. Why me?"

The Battle of Iwo Jima began  
with an amphibious assault by  
Marines on Feb. 19, 1945, follow-  
ing months of aerial and naval  
bombardment. The Japanese had

dug deep into the volcanic rock of  
the island, connected by a lay-  
er of tunnels.

Some 70,000 Marines took part  
in the 36-day battle. They suf-  
fered fewer casualties than the  
Japanese, with more than 6,800  
killed and 19,000 wounded. On  
the Japanese side, approximately  
18,000 were killed. Only 216 Jap-  
anese were captured alive.

The island was declared secure  
on March 16, 1945.

### The ceremony

The ceremony Saturday morn-  
ing was held under an unrelent-  
ing sun — another reminder of  
the island's challenging condi-  
tions. The Americans and Jap-  
anese took seats on opposite sides  
of the Reunion of Honor obelisk  
monument, overlooking the inva-  
sion beach, and in the shadow of  
Mount Suribachi, but they were  
united in friendship and sorrow.

"To see the hatred between the  
Marines and the Japanese we had  
when we were fighting here gone  
away; it's a transition of the world  
into new di-  
mensions,"  
Heilman  
said.

"But  
having had a  
lot of friends  
killed here,  
it's sad."

While  
bands from  
the III Ma-  
rine Expedi-  
tionary Force  
and Japan  
Ground Self-  
Defense  
Force played,  
dignitaries  
made speech-  
es and laid  
wreaths for  
those who lost  
their lives,  
thousands of  
who never  
made it off  
the island — the name of which  
translates into sulfur island. It is  
east of Okinawa and south of  
Tokyo.

"I am proud of and deeply  
moved by the fact that [Iwo Jima]  
is the only place in the world  
where former adversaries came  
together to co-host a memorial  
service," said Japanese House of  
Representatives member Yoshi-  
taka Shindo, whose grandfather,  
Gen. Tadarnichi Kuribayashi,  
was garrison commander during  
the battle.

"We remember and honor  
those who fought for their coun-  
try and families, and we, with  
the thoughts that the peace and  
prosperity we now enjoy were  
brought upon their sacrifice, must  
pass down their history to future  
generations so that their sacrifice  
will not be forgotten."

Marine Corps Commander  
Gen. Robert Neller also spoke at  
the ceremony.

"Few places mean as much to  
the United States Marines and  
few battles bond us so tightly to  
our heritage as Iwo Jima," he



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Attendees from the U.S. and Japan take part in the 74th annual Reunion of Honor ceremony Saturday on Iwo To, formerly known as Iwo Jima, to commemorate the pivotal World War II battle.

said. "More than 26,000 men  
died here. And to those living, it  
is proper that every year Marines  
and our Japanese allies return to  
this hallowed ground to honor the  
sacrifices of those who made their  
last stand on these black sands."

Speeches by other officials  
from the Japanese government  
and U.S. military were followed  
by a moment of silence. The vet-  
erans, often referred to as "the  
old breed," then posed for pic-  
tures and chatted with Marines  
of today.

"Being able to just walk on the  
sand out here is an honor," said  
Lance Cpl. Danikamarie Lester,  
21, a water support technician  
with the 3rd Marine Logistics  
Group from DeRidder, La.

"All the Marines that lost their  
lives, and the sailors — it means  
something to you, so you feel it,"  
she said. "Once you get out here,  
your whole perspective of every-  
thing just changes."

Bob Persichitti, 96, let out a  
sigh when asked to recall the  
flag-raising on the 554-foot Suri-  
bachi that loomed over him once  
again like a moss-covered sleep-  
ing giant.

The former radioman second  
class on the command ship USS  
Eldorado witnessed them both,  
including the second flag-raising  
that was captured by The Associ-  
ated Press' Joe Rosenthal in his  
iconic photograph.

"I was on the deck," said Per-  
sichitti, his voice wavering.  
"When I got on the island today, I  
just broke down."

### 'They looked frightened'

Persichitti recalled some of the  
grievous injuries he saw on Ma-  
rines brought aboard his ship. He  
witnessed several burials at sea.

"When they made the land-  
ing, they started losing all these  
guys," he said. "It wasn't a very  
good sight."

Barney Leone, then a machin-



Veterans of the Iwo Jima campaign pose for a photo with Japanese House of Representatives member Yoshitaka Shindo, whose grandfather, Gen. Tadarnichi Kuribayashi, was garrison commander during the 1945 battle.

ist mate second class on the fuel  
ship USS Nemasket, was also an-  
chored offshore in the shadow of  
the mountain. He vividly remem-  
bers the Marines' movements before  
they entered a hornet's nest of hot  
metal and death, all looking for-  
ward, holding their rifles straight  
ahead in front of them.

"My ship was anchored close  
enough to the beach that on the  
landing, [our] ship would be the  
last ship they would pass before  
hitting the beach," Leone said.  
"We were topside; we gave them  
[a thumbs-up]. Not one Marine  
looked at us. They looked fright-  
ened. ... When I tell that story, I

tear up because many of them  
that I saw never came back."

Leone has taken these mental  
pictures to schools over the years  
to teach young people about free-  
dom and civic responsibility.

"They died for each one of  
you," he said. "The freedom that  
you're enjoying, myself included,  
somebody paid for with their life.  
Appreciate the freedom you have,  
try to get along with each other."

"I'm 94 years of age now. I  
think I'm here to carry that mis-  
sion out for those that are not able  
to be here to do that."

burke.matt@stripes.com

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## MILITARY

# Intruder breaks into base, detonates canisters

By MATTHEW M. BURKE  
AND AYA ICHIHASHI  
*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Japanese police and U.S. military officials are investigating after someone broke into a Marine Corps base and detonated a pair of small gas canisters outside a building that houses Japanese government officials.

The incident happened about 6 p.m. Sunday at Camp Foster's Okinawa Defense Bureau office, a bureau spokesman told Stars and Stripes. The office is in a remote compound across a road from the main base.

It's unclear if anyone was inside at the time.

There were no injuries, but the perpetrator apparently cut a fence to gain entry, said the spokesman for the bureau, which represents Japan's Ministry of Defense on

the island.

Bureau and Marine officials declined to provide details on damages or suspects. A photo released by the defense bureau showed two small gas canisters like those used in camping stoves and a burnt piece of cardboard.

"This incident is currently under investigation by both the USMC Criminal Investigation Division, and the Okinawa Prefectural Police," Marine Corps Installations Pacific spokesman Maj. Andrew Aranda told Stars and Stripes in an email. "It would be premature to comment on any details at this time."

The incident happened just days after Japanese Defense Minister Takeshi Iwaya announced that new landfill work would begin Monday for a controversial runway at Camp Schwab in the northern part of the island. The runway being built into Oura

Bay will one day allow for the closure of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and the relocation of Marine air assets to Schwab.

The issue has been contentious for more than a decade as Tokyo pushes ahead with construction despite opposition from a majority of Okinawan voters. Seventy-two percent of voters who turned out for a referendum on the project last month voted against it.

Okinawa Gov. Denny Tamaki filed suit against the central government Friday at Fukuoka High Court Naha Branch to once again attempt to halt the project, the Okinawa Times newspaper reported. His predecessor, Takeshi Onaga, made several unsuccessful attempts to block it. Anti-military vandalism incidents aren't uncommon on the island.

On the evening of Dec. 22, someone spray-painted a security camera, broke a

window and threw a flare into the Okinawa Provincial Cooperation Office in Maejima, Naha. The Okinawa Provincial Cooperation Office is a recruitment office for the Japan Self-Defense Force and also houses the Naha office of the Okinawa Defense Bureau.

No injuries were reported but the flare ignited a bed on the first floor, Okinawa Fire Department West District spokesman Toshihiro Kuniyoshi said at the time. No suspects have been identified, and no arrests have been made in that case.

"We will not tolerate such crime, and we will cooperate with authorities to solve this case," the defense bureau spokesman said Monday.

burke.matt@stripes.com  
ichihashi.aya@stripes.com

## Ramstein unaffected by glitch causing travel delays in Germany

By JENNIFER H. SVAN  
*Stars and Stripes*

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — Flight operations at Ramstein Air Base were unaffected Monday despite a software glitch at a German air traffic control center that has grounded or delayed dozens of commercial flights in parts of the country.

Americans trying to fly into or out of Germany in the next several days may experience travel delays while the company responsible for German air traffic, DFS, looks for a fix.

More than 60 flights affecting some 4,500 passengers were canceled Monday at Frankfurt International Airport, most with Lufthansa. Most of the more than 50,000 Defense Department personnel living near Ramstein fly internationally through Frankfurt.

Passengers scheduled to fly out of Frankfurt were urged Monday to check the status of their flight before traveling to the airport

and to check in as early as possible. Delays of about 30 minutes for arrivals and departures were reported at the airport during the day.

The software problem could persist until at least Wednesday or Thursday, DFS said in a statement Monday. Safety has not been compromised, the agency said.

Meanwhile, flight operations from Ramstein were continuing as normal and "at this time ... are unaffected by the software glitch," base officials said.

The issue began last week with problems displaying planned airplane routes, Reuters reported. It affects DFS' Langen control center near Frankfurt, where air traffic controllers oversee flights across several states in southwestern Germany.

Reduced air traffic volume was also reported at Cologne/Bonn, Stuttgart and Duesseldorf airports, Reuters said.

svan.jennifer@stripes.com  
Twitter: @stripesstown



DEVIN M. RUMBACON/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

An 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief launches a C-130J Super Hercules aircraft at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in February. Base officials say air operations have not been affected by a software glitch at Germany's air traffic control headquarters.



PHOTOS BY JONATHAN JIANG/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Chief Gunner's Mate Bryan Marsh, of Tulsa, Okla., stands watch as part of the smallcraft action team aboard the destroyer USS Zumwalt as the ship travels toward Ketchikan, Alaska.

## New class of warship visits Alaska

Associated Press

KETCHIKAN, Alaska — One of the U.S. Navy's newest class of warships has docked at an Alaska port for a rare visit.

The USS Zumwalt docked in Ketchikan on Saturday for a weekend stay, the Juneau Empire reported.

The 610-foot-long destroyer launched in October 2013 is based in San Diego.

Steve Corporon, Ketchikan's port and harbors director, said bigger fenders were needed to make sure the ship would fit without damaging the vessel or the dock.

Navy Commander Brandon Raile said the last Navy visit to Ketchikan was by the USS Opden in 2005, while the USS O'Kane destroyer stopped in Juneau nearly 300 miles farther north in May 2017.

The 15-year time gap and strategic reasons were behind the Alaska stop, according to Raile, who explained that rising ice in the Arctic is creating wa-



USS Zumwalt Commanding Officer Capt. Andrew Carlson walks with City of Saxman Mayor Frank Seludo, City of Ketchikan Mayor Robert Sivertsen and Ketchikan Gateway Borough Mayor David Landis.

terways that previously did not exist. He added that "everybody is more interested in the area for trade and other purposes."

"It's important that the Navy does more and more exercise up in this part of the world," Raile

said. "We have the opportunity of a ship that needs something to do and something that needs to be done. It works out pretty well."

The ship will continue to undisclosed locations after leaving Ketchikan, Raile said.

## NATION

# Mueller's report will be Trump's campaign weapon

By JONATHAN LEMIRE  
AND ZEKE MILLER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For President Donald Trump, the fight over the “witch hunt” is only just beginning.

Now that special counsel Robert Mueller's two-year investigation into Trump's campaign is over, it's being transformed into a rallying cry and a weapon for the president's re-election campaign.

The pall of the two-year probe lifted Sunday when Attorney General William Barr released a summary of Mueller's findings that said the wide-ranging investigation found no evidence of collusion by Trump's 2016 campaign with the Russian government. Barr's four-page letter was immediately seized upon by the Republican president and his allies as a weapon to use against Democrats, the so-called Deep State and the media.

Even before Mueller's conclusions were revealed, it was clear that Trump saw the end of the investigation as a political opportunity.

The president's lawyers debated legal strategy. Trump aides and political allies developed a plan to turn the end of the probe into the launching pad for a new round of attacks on the president's foes and a moment to reinvigorate

his supporters in the run-up to the 2020 campaign. With pre-written tweets and talking points, Trump surrogates rushed to claim victory and rub the results in the face of Democrats, many of whom had spent months promising that Mueller would turn up more.

“Democrats and their liberal media allies for two years slandered President @realDonaldTrump for ‘conspiring with Russia,’” press secretary Sarah Sanders tweeted. “It was all a malicious, preposterous lie given wall to wall media coverage despite zero evidence. This should never again happen to an American President.”

Breaking a 48-hour stretch of lawyer-imposed silence on Twitter, Trump stood on the tarmac beside Air Force One on Sunday and jubilantly hailed the results, exaggerating the findings as a “total exoneration.” He also said that those behind the probe, which he compared to a failed coup, should be held responsible.

“You’ve made a great victim of Donald Trump here,” Trump counselor Kellyanne Conway said on Monday morning. Trump's campaign moved quickly to raise money off the Mueller news, with a text message to supporters stating, “Dems raised millions off a lie. Now we FIGHT BACK!”

The team's plans going forward are more expensive, according to



ALEX BRANDON/AP

**President Donald Trump speaks with the media after stepping off Marine One on the South Lawn of the White House on Sunday.**

seven aides and allies involved with the effort, most of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about private deliberations.

While Trump's base has long been suspicious of Mueller, the president's team believes independents and moderate Democrats who backed him in the last election but have since soured may return to the fold if convinced he was unfairly targeted.

Republicans who had mused about a primary challenge to Trump if Mueller returned a smoking gun may now stay on the sidelines. Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, one of several Republicans considering a bid to unseat the president, told The Associated Press last month he would mount a campaign only if the political dynamics in the race changed.

If anything, they've changed in Trump's favor. Major talking points for Democrats who had pinned great hopes on Mueller have vanished. And some

swinging voters, wary at the prospect of endless investigations and talk of impeachment, may prove more sympathetic to the president.

The president and his allies will now link the report with the investigations launched by House Democrats and try to make the case that, in the wake of Mueller's findings, further probes are a partisan overreach.

The president's campaign and pro-Trump outside groups are poised to amplify the message, while his advisers expect Fox News and the conservative media to act as an echo chamber. A full-throated attack on the investigation also will be the centerpiece of Trump campaign events, including rallies, they say.

Trump said Monday he's glad Mueller's investigation into Russian meddling is over and wishes it could have gone quicker. Trump says “we can never let this happen to another president again.”

Asked Monday whether Mueller had acted honorably, Trump responded, “Yes, he did.”

## Report gives Russia its ‘I told you so’ moment

By NATALIYA VASILYEVA  
Associated Press

MOSCOW — Russia is reacting with an “I told you so” on Monday in state media after the conclusion of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Moscow's involvement in the U.S. presidential election did not find evidence of collusion.

Wrapping up the 22-month investigation, Mueller's report found no evidence that President Donald Trump's campaign conspired with Russian officials to influence the 2016 election.

Mueller said in a passage from the report quoted by U.S. Attorney General William Barr that there was no evidence that Trump “was involved in an underlying crime related to Russian election interference.”

Until Monday, there was little to no coverage in Russia of the Mueller investigation. Russian media didn't closely follow all the leaks that accompanied the probe but referred to the investigation from time to time as an example of what they described as U.S. hysteria against Russia.

Russian officials and state media, who have vehemently denied that the Kremlin wanted Trump to win and was helping him in the campaign, on Monday relished the news.

“The results of Mueller's investigation are a disgrace for the U.S. and its political elites,” Alexei Pushkov, chairman of the information committee at the Federation Council, tweeted on Monday.

## Report: Despite report stating no collusion, Trump has not been exonerated

### FROM FRONT PAGE

But while Mueller was categorical in ruling out criminal collusion, he was more circumspect on presidential obstruction of justice. Despite Trump's claim of total exoneration, Mueller did not draw a conclusion one way or the other on whether he sought to stifle the Russia investigation through his actions including the firing of former FBI director James Comey.

According to Barr's summary, Mueller set out “evidence on both sides of the question” and stated that “while this report does not conclude the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him.”

Barr, who was nominated by Trump in December, and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein, who appointed Mueller in May 2017 and oversaw much of his work, went farther in Trump's favor.

The attorney general said he and Rosenstein had determined that Mueller's evidence was insufficient to prove in court

that Trump had committed obstruction of justice to hamper the probe. Barr has previously voiced a broad view of presidential powers, and in an unsolicited memo last June he cast doubt on whether the president could have obstructed justice through acts — like firing his FBI director — that he was legally empowered to take.

Barr said their decision was based on the evidence uncovered by Mueller and not affected by the December appointment of Barr, whose appointment has been questioned by some Democrats who say a sitting president cannot be indicted.

Mueller's team examined a series of actions by the president in the last two years to determine if he intended obstruction. Those included his firing of Comey one week before Mueller's appointment, his public and private haranguing of then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions for recusing himself from the Russia investigation because of his work on the campaign; his request of Comey to end an investigation into Michael Flynn, the White House's first national security adviser; and his draft-

ing of an incomplete explanation about his oldest son's meeting with a Russian lawyer during the campaign.

Mueller's findings absolve Trump on the question of colluding with Russia but don't entirely remove the legal threats the president and associates are facing.

Federal prosecutors in New York, for instance, are investigating hush-money payments made to two women during the campaign who say they had sex with the president. Trump's former personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, implicated Trump in campaign finance violations when he pleaded guilty last year.

The special counsel's investigation did not come up empty-handed. It ensured nearly three dozen people, senior Trump campaign operatives among them. The probe illuminated Russia's assault on the American political system, painted the Trump campaign as eager to exploit the release of hacked Democratic emails to hurt Clinton and exposed lies by Trump aides aimed at covering up their Russia-relat-

ed contacts.

Thirty-four people, including six Trump aides and advisers, were charged in the investigation. Twenty-five are Russians accused of election interference either through hacking into Democratic accounts or orchestrating a social media campaign to spread disinformation on the internet.

Sunday's summary — and its suggestion that Mueller may have found evidence in support of obstruction — sets up a fight between Barr and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer in a statement.

“Given Mr. Barr's public record of bias against the special counsel's inquiry, he is not a neutral observer and is not in a position to make objective determinations about the report,” they said.

Mueller submitted his report to

Barr instead of directly to Congress and the public because, unlike independent counsels such as Ken Starr in the case of President Bill Clinton, his investigation operated under the close supervision of the Justice Department.

Barr said that Mueller “thoroughly” investigated the question of whether the Trump campaign coordinated with Russia's election interference, issuing more than 2,800 subpoenas, obtaining nearly 500 search warrants and interviewing 500 witnesses. Trump answered some questions in writing but refused to be interviewed in person by the Mueller team.

Barr said Mueller also cataloged the president's actions including “many” that took place in “public view,” a possible nod to Trump's public attacks on investigators and witnesses.

In the letter, Barr said he concluded that none of Trump's actions constituted a federal crime that prosecutors could prove in court.

## NATION

## Key takeaways from Mueller's Russia findings

By CHAD DAY  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Special counsel Robert Mueller spent 22 months examining whether Donald Trump's campaign conspired with Russia to sway the 2016 election.

His conclusion? No collusion. But the question of whether Trump obstructed justice wasn't so clear cut. In laying out Mueller's findings, Attorney General William Barr said the special counsel didn't weigh in on the question. Instead, Barr ultimately made the call that Trump didn't violate the law, a move that quickly drew criticism from House Democrats who say the president is hardly in the clear.

Here are some key takeaways from Mueller's findings:

■ **No collusion between the Trump campaign and Russia.**

Mueller made that clear. Barr quotes Mueller's confidential report as saying the investigation "did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities."

That finding was a win for Trump, who has turned "no collusion" into a daily refrain.

The letter is short on detail, though. And Barr says he will have to consult with Mueller and other Justice Department officials before he can release more of Mueller's confidential report or any other information he gathered during the investigation.

Barr's letter didn't say what Mueller learned that fell short of a crime about a broad range of Trump associates who had Russia-related contacts. It also didn't answer why several of those people lied to federal investigators or Congress during the Russia probe since there wasn't any direct coordination going on.

■ **No smoking gun on obstruction, but no exoneration either.** Mueller punted on whether Trump obstructed justice, deciding not to make a judgment "one way or the other."

"While this report does not conclude that the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him," Mueller wrote in his report.

Instead, the special counsel laid out the evidence on both sides of the question.

According to Barr, Mueller left unresolved what he viewed as the "difficult issues" of law and fact concerning whether the President's actions in office could be viewed as obstruction."

■ **Barr made the call on prosecuting obstruction.**

Absent a recommendation from Mueller, Barr said he stepped in.

Barr, who was appointed by Trump, said he and Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein decided there wasn't sufficient evidence to establish that the president obstructed justice.

That conclusion was based on Mueller's investigation, Barr said. It was not a reflection of the Justice Department's view that a sitting president can't be indicted.



CLIFF OWEN/AP

Special counsel Robert Mueller and his wife, Ann, pass the White House as they walk to their car after attending services at St. John's Episcopal Church in Washington on Sunday.

## World finally gets words from Mueller, but just a few and filtered through Barr

By CALVIN WOODWARD  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Robert Mueller has finally spoken. But it isn't easy to find exactly what he said.

A summary of Mueller's findings is in a four-page letter sent to Congress on Sunday and signed by Attorney General William Barr. It's Barr's work, describing the work of Washington's mystery man from the last two years.

But Barr only rarely quotes Mueller directly, bringing to the surface mere glimpses of the actual Mueller report.

Barr did give Mueller some of the most consequential lines. He quotes Mueller as saying "while this report does not conclude that the president committed a crime, it also does not exonerate him."

He also uses Mueller's words to dispatch with the initial mandate of the investigation: "The investigation did not establish that members of the Trump campaign conspired or coordinated with the Russian government in its election interference activities. ... The evidence does not establish

that the president was involved in an underlying crime related to Russian election interference."

And Barr borrows Mueller's exact phrase to explain that the special counsel did not make a conclusion on whether Trump tried to obstruct the investigation. Mueller was faced with "difficult issues" of law and fact concerning whether President Donald Trump's actions and intent could be seen as criminal and said he conducted a "thorough factual investigation" into these matters.

That's it, except for a throat-clearing reference to the "confidential report explaining the prosecution or declination decisions" he made.

Spinnlike in a capital where public figures typically lunge for attention, Mueller has maintained a studied silence since his appointment, no matter how many times Trump called his labors a "witch hunt."

Even Mueller's spokesman rarely speaks. When Mueller and his wife, Ann, attended St. John's Episcopal Church across from the White House on Sunday, photographers and videographers captured their sidewalk stroll.

Mueller did not speak.

deal in Russia during the campaign, an effort that included his personal lawyer discussing the proposal with a Kremlin official.

But according to Mueller, the Americans involved didn't violate the law.

■ **Is Trump out of the house?**

No. Trump also plays a central role in a separate case in New York, where prosecutors have implicated him in a crime. They say Trump directed his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to arrange illegal hush-money payments as a way to quash potential sex scandals during the campaign. New York prosecutors also are looking into Trump's inaugural fund.

Congressional investigations also are swirling around the president. Democrats have launched a sweeping probe of Trump that threatens to shadow the president through the 2020 election season.

## Findings: Graham says 'good day' for 'rule of law'

FROM FRONT PAGE

The investigation took down his campaign chairman, his White House national security adviser and his longtime lawyer. It revealed the extent of Moscow's desire to swing the 2016 contest toward Trump, as well as Trump's pursuit of business deals in Russia deep into the campaign. And the Justice Department didn't explain why so many Trump associates lied throughout the investigation.

But in the end, Mueller concluded that those lies were not an effort to obscure a criminal conspiracy by Trump and his advisers to work with Russia. There was smoke, and plenty of it — including an eyebrow-raising meeting between Trump's son and a Russian lawyer — but ultimately, no fire.

"Good day for the rule of law. Great day for President Trump and his team," said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C. "Bad day for those hoping the Mueller investigation would take President Trump down."

Democrats quickly sought to puncture Trump and fellow Republicans' jubilation, vowing to subpoena Mueller's full report, which remains a secret.

After spending years questioning Trump's ties to Moscow, the Democrats' focus is shifting to the question Mueller pointedly left unanswered: whether Trump obstructed the investigation by firing FBI Director James Comey and dictating a misleading statement about his son's meeting with the Russian lawyer.

"The fact that special counsel Mueller's report does not exonerate the president on a charge as serious as obstruction of justice demonstrates how urgent it is that the full report and underlying documentation be made public without any further delay," House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a joint statement.

The fight for those documents will be lengthy and contentious, particularly against the backdrop of the 2020 presidential election. It will involve complex debates over the rules that govern special counsel investigations, which put a member of Trump's Cabinet in charge of summarizing Mueller's findings for the public, and a president's right to keep his private discussions out of the public eye.

## NATION

# Supreme Court to revisit challenge to redistricting

By MARK SHERMAN  
AND GARY D. ROBERTSON  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Last year, proponents of limiting partisan politics in the creation of electoral districts needed to win over Justice Anthony Kennedy. They couldn't.

The issue is back before the Supreme Court again, with arguments on Tuesday, and it might be harder than ever to persuade the justices to rein in the practice known as partisan gerrymandering, designing districts to benefit one political party.

A new round of redistricting awaits after the 2020 census and the court's decision could help shape the makeup of Congress and state legislatures over the next 10 years.

With Kennedy retired, the question is whether federal courts will remain open at all to complaints about political line-drawing.

"The question of what the outcome will be in light of recent changes in the membership of the Supreme Court is anybody's

guess," said Seth Waxman, the former lead high court lawyer in the Clinton administration and a supporter of limits on drawing districts for partisan gain. Justice Brett Kavanaugh is in Kennedy's seat.

Chief Justice John Roberts is now the court conservative closest to the center and the focus of the arguments for reining in partisan redistricting, said Michael Kimberly, the lawyer for Republican voters who challenged a Democratic congressional district in Maryland.

"The concern now is persuading him," Kimberly said, acknowledging Roberts' skepticism about the court's involvement in the issue during arguments last term.

Critics of partisan manipulation of electoral maps say that when one party controls redistricting, it can exaggerate and entrench its power, even in states that are otherwise closely divided between Republicans and Democrats.

The court has before it two cases, from Maryland and North Carolina, with strong evidence

that elected officials charged with drawing and approving congressional districts acted for maximum partisan advantage.

In North Carolina, Republicans ran the process and sought to preserve a 10-3 split in the congressional delegation in favor of the GOP, even as statewide races are usually closely divided.

In Maryland, Democrats controlled redistricting and sought to flip one district that had been represented by a Republican for 20 years.

Both plans succeeded, and lower courts concluded that the districts violated the Constitution.

Bolstering those court outcomes were the candid appraisals by former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, a Democrat, and North Carolina state Rep. David Lewis, a Republican, of the critical role politics played in redistricting.

Part of the point in redrawing the 6th congressional district in western Maryland was to "create a district where the people would be more likely to elect a Democrat than a Republican, yes, this was clearly my intent," O'Malley



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

**The Supreme Court is set to hear arguments Tuesday that revisit the issue of partisan gerrymandering.**

said in testimony for the lawsuit challenging the district.

Needing to reduce the district's population by just over 10,000 people to ensure similarly sized congressional districts, Maryland Democrats instead removed 360,000 Republicans and replaced them with 350,000 Democrats.

In North Carolina, Lewis boasted that the congressional map he helped draw in 2016 — to replace a map that had been struck down for relying too heavily on race — would preserve the Republicans' already sizable edge. He told fellow lawmakers then that he was proposing a 10-3 map "because I do not believe it's possible to draw a map with 11 Republicans and two Democrats."

Lewis said later he was joking, but those who sued don't think so.

The 2018 race margins describe a tell-tale sign of partisan gerrymandering, according to map critics: Voters supporting the minority party are packed tightly into fewer districts, resulting in easy victories, while the majority party wins narrower races, but in more districts.

While each of the three incumbent Democrats cruised to reelection in November with at least 70 percent of the vote, no winning Republican in a contested race received above 60 percent.

A court ruling that leads to further remapping could add confusion for voters and candidates in the middle of campaigns.



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## NATION

# Student tragedies highlight need for more mental help

By SUSANNAH BRYAN  
(Fort Lauderdale, Fla.) Sun-Sentinel

CORAL SPRINGS, Fla. — The apparent suicides of two Parkland school shooting survivors in one week underscore the need for increased mental health resources to help those still traumatized by the tragedy.

News of both deaths spread quickly on social media, sending shock waves through a community that is still healing.

"It's just been unfortunate that we lost another one," said Ryan Petty, whose 14-year-old daughter, Alaina, was one of the 17 killed last year at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School.

Parents, students, school officials and other members of the Stoneman Douglas community met Sunday evening, Petty said. The group discussed the need for awareness and brainstormed what to ask their family and friends who are struggling and where to go for help.

"We have students and staff that are still at risk," Petty said.

The group also adopted the Columbia Protocol, Petty said, which is a framework for checking whether a family member or friend is in crisis.

After his daughter's death, Petty launched the Walk Up Foundation to help prevent suicide.

"We have to recognize after an event like this, there is trauma, anxiety and depression," Petty said. "We have to educate parents and teachers to recognize the signs and ask the right questions."

School district spokeswoman Kathy Koch did not respond to

questions Sunday.

Teens who notice their friends might be suicidal are encouraged to report it by calling 211 in Broward County, Petty said.

It's important to look out for warning signs, said Jackie Rosen, who founded Florida Initiative for Suicide Prevention after her son killed himself 31 years ago.

Warning signs include changes in appetite and behavior; sleep-



Aiello

ing too much or not at all; apathy and fatigue; trouble concentrating or being indecisive; withdrawing from family, friends and social activities; and giving away prized possessions and saying goodbye to friends.

Jared Moskowitz, the state's emergency management director and former representative from Parkland, urged the Legislature to fund more mental health resources for the Stoneman Douglas community.

"Now is the time for the Florida Legislature to help," he tweeted. "Mental health is a bipartisan issue."

Petty said he has been in contact with Moskowitz and Gov. Ron DeSantis over the past few days.

Sydney Aiello, a senior at Stoneman Douglas last year, battled post-traumatic stress disorder after the shooting. She died from suicide March 17. Her funeral was on Friday.

The second student from Stone-



STEPHEN M. DOWELL, ORLANDO (FLA.) SENTINEL/TPS

UCF student Emily Molen, with a hand to her face, takes part in a candlelight vigil on the UCF campus in Orlando, Fla., in commemoration of the one-year anniversary of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on Feb. 14. Two survivors of the shooting have died in recent apparent suicides.

**'We have to recognize after an event like this, there is trauma, anxiety and depression.'**

Ryan Petty  
father of Parkland shooting victim

man Douglas died Saturday night in what police are calling an apparent suicide. He was a 17-year-old sophomore at the school, Petty said.

Police did not release the identity of the student Sunday but confirmed that he attended Stoneman Douglas.

Sources have shared his identity with the South Florida Sun-Sentinel, but the newspaper is withholding the name out of consideration for the minor and his family.

It's unclear Sunday whether his death was related to last year's tragedy.

"I can't tell you if it's related to the Parkland shooting," said Officer Tyler Reik, a spokesman for the Coral Springs Police Department. "We don't know the reasoning behind it."

"It's still an ongoing investigation. It hasn't even been confirmed as a suicide."

Rosen urges parents to talk to their kids about what they're thinking and feeling.

"One of the most important things you can do is listen to your child," she said. "If they say, 'I don't want to be here anymore' or 'I've had enough,' it may be time to seek professional intervention."

Rosen listed questions to ask your child: "Are you thinking of hurting yourself? Have you made a plan? Do you have what you need to carry out the plan? When are you planning on carrying out the plan?"

School shooting survivors live with anxiety and fear, sleepless nights and wandering thoughts — reminders of the sights, sounds and smells of Feb. 14, 2018. Extreme anxiety and depression

can last for months and years, said Dr. Jan Faust, professor of psychology at Nova Southeastern University and an expert on PTSD in children.

Survivors may feel angry, irritable or nauseous; they might tune out to protect themselves from feelings of grief.

"It's really important for parents and teachers to observe children in the classroom to look for those warning flags," Faust said.

"If their grades dip, or if they become more withdrawn and aren't as social. They may start to cry out of nowhere, and parents and teachers need to let them know it's OK."

## Safety of US breast implants is revisited

Associated Press

SILVER SPRING, Md. — U.S. medical authorities are revisiting the safety of breast implants used by millions of American women, the latest review in a multi-decade debate about their health effects.

An expert panel assembled by the Food and Drug Administration meets for two days starting Monday to discuss the latest evidence about the risks of illness and complications with the devices, which are used for cosmetic



A silicone gel breast implant is displayed on Dec. 11, 2006.

and reconstructive surgery.

The FDA is grappling with a recently confirmed link between the implants and a rare form of cancer.

Additionally, many women are pushing the agency to address long-standing but unconfirmed

claims that implants can contribute to other chronic ailments.

The FDA panel will hear from researchers, plastic surgeons, patients and manufacturers.

For now, the FDA isn't proposing any new restrictions or warnings.

## University of Georgia fraternity suspended over a racist video

Associated Press

ATHENS, Ga. — A University of Georgia fraternity is being investigated over a video showing some of its members mocking slavery and using a racial slur.

The university's Student Government Association said in a statement Friday that they were aware of a video circulating on social media that shows members of a Greek organization "using racist language and engaging in behaviors that mock the suffering of enslaved peoples," media report.

The university said on Twitter that the fraternity was suspended by its national organization.

"The University of Georgia condemns racism in the strongest terms. Racism has no place in our

campus," the university said.

The video shows a student hitting another with a belt while saying the words "Pick my cotton" and then a racial slur.

The national chapter for the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity said in a statement that the students have been expelled and the organization is "disgusted, appalled and angered" by the incident.

"TKE will not tolerate any actions such as these that would be defined as racist, discriminatory and/or offensive," the organization said.

The group said the members in the video were not on chapter premises when the incident happened and were not taking part in a fraternity function.

## NATION

## 1st nuclear waste dump project marks 20 years

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN

Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. In a remote stretch of New Mexico desert, the U.S. government put in motion an experiment aimed at proving to the world that radioactive waste could be safely disposed of deep underground, rendering it less of a threat to the environment.

Twenty years and more than 12,380 shipments later, tons of Cold War-era waste from decades of bomb-making and nuclear research across the U.S. have been stashed in the salt caverns that make up the underground facility. Each week, several shipments of special boxes and barrels packed with lab coats, rubber gloves, tools and debris contaminated with plutonium and other radioactive elements are trucked to the site.

But the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant has not been without issues.

A 2014 radiation leak forced an expensive, nearly three-year closure, delayed the federal government's cleanup program and prompted policy changes at national laboratories and defense-related sites across the U.S. More recently, the U.S. Department of Energy said it would investigate reports that workers may have been exposed last year to hazardous chemicals.

Still, supporters consider the repository a success, saying it provides a viable option for dealing with a multibillion-dollar mess that stretches from a decommissioned nuclear weapons production site in Washington state to one of the nation's top nuclear research labs in Idaho and locations as far east as South Carolina.

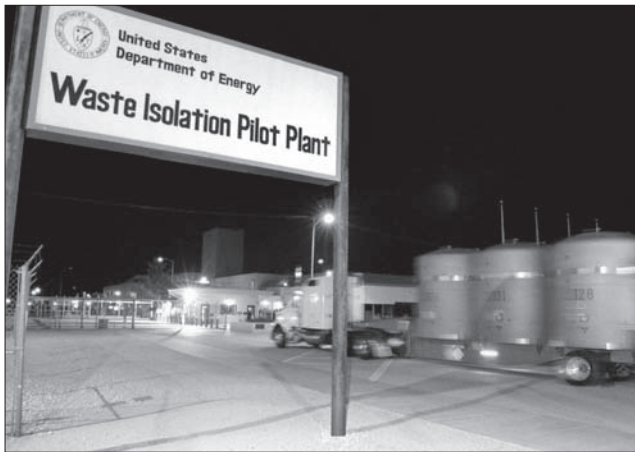
If it weren't for the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant, many containers of plutonium-contaminated waste would be outside, exposed to the weather and susceptible to natural disasters, said J.R. Stroble, head of business operations at the Department of Energy's Carlsbad Field Office, which oversees the contractor that operates the repository.

"The whole purpose of WIPP is to isolate this long-lived, radioactive, hazardous waste from the accessible environment, from people and the things people need in order to live on Earth," he told The Associated Press.

## Differing views

Stroble and others in the communities surrounding the repository are steadfast in their conviction that the facility is a success. Fifty to 22 sites around the nation that have been cleaned up as a result of having somewhere to put the waste — including Rocky Flats, a former nuclear weapons plant outside Denver that had a history of leaks, spills and other violations.

For critics, that success is checkered, at best, since the repository is far from fulfilling its mission.



THOMAS HERBERT/AP

The first load of nuclear waste arrives at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant site in Carlsbad, N.M., from Los Alamos National Laboratory on March 26, 1999.



ERIC DRAPER/AP

A worker drives a cart through a tunnel inside Waste Isolation Pilot Plant No. 2, 150 feet below the surface, on April 8, 1998.

"It's 80 percent through its lifetime, and it has disposed of less than 40 percent of the waste and has cost more than twice as much as it was supposed to," said Don Hancock, with the watchdog group Southwest Research and Information Center. "How great of a success is that?" Officials initially thought the facility would operate for about 25 years. Rather than wrapping up in the next few years, managers have bumped the timeline to 2050.

The repository was carved out of an ancient salt formation about a half-mile below the surface, with the idea that the shifting salt would eventually entomb the radioactive waste.

It was the National Academy of Sciences in the 1950s that first recommended disposing of atomic waste in deep geologic formations.



Hancock

Scientists began taking a hard look at the New Mexico site about two decades later. The scientists had to convince themselves and federal regulators that it was safe. One of their tasks was determining that the ancient seawater trapped between the salt crystals

and bound up in thin bands of clay within the salt deposit would pose no problems thousands of years later.

"It was exciting to be working on what was then going to be the world's first deep-geologic repository for that class of waste," said Peter Swift, a senior scientist at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, N.M. "Nothing that radioactive had been put that deep underground before. And that's still true 20 years later."

While the real test will be what happens generations from now, Swift is confident in the science behind the project.

But the wild card in whether the repository is ultimately deemed a success will be the human factor.

After all, missteps by management were blamed for the 2014 radiation release.

With some areas permanently sealed off due to contamination, more mining will have to be done to expand capacity. The federal government also is spending more than a half-billion dollars to install a new ventilation system, sink more shafts and make other upgrades aimed at returning to "normal business."

## Landfill worries

Hancock and some former elected leaders involved in early discussions about the facility worry about the subterranean landfill becoming a dumping ground for high-level waste or commercial nuclear waste.

But it would take an act of Congress to expand the repository's mission, and getting consent from New Mexico's delegates would be a tall order since the federal government still has no long-term plan for dealing with such waste. Nevada's proposed Yucca Mountain project is mothballed, and no other permanent disposal proposals are out of the table.

Toney Anaya, who served as New Mexico governor in the 1980s, remembers the heated debates about bringing more radioactive waste to the state. He said there were concerns about safety, but the promise of jobs was attractive. Some also argued New Mexico had a moral obligation given its legacy of uranium mining and its role in the development of the atomic bomb.

Another former governor of the state, Bill Richardson, was on both sides of the tug of war — first as a young Democratic congressman who wanted to impose environmental standards and keep 18-wheelers loaded with waste from passing through the heart of Santa Fe. Then he became U.S. energy secretary during the Clinton administration and pressured the state to clear the way for the repository to open.

"For New Mexico, we've done our share of storing waste, and we've done it safely and effectively," Richardson said. "It's provided jobs, but I just think the future of the state is not nuclear."

Southeastern New Mexico's ties to nuclear run deep and will continue for at least the next 30 years under the plans being charted now.

Robust state regulation will be key in ensuring responsible management going forward, said Hancock, with the watchdog group. The problem, he said, is that besides the Cold War-era waste that has yet to be dealt with, the federal government and nuclear power plants keep generating more.

"We need to decide what our capacities are actually going to be — how much nuclear power waste are we going to create, how much nuclear weapons waste are we going to create — so that we can then put our arms around the problem," Hancock said.

## WORLD

# Netanyahu, Trump meet as Israeli troops target Hamas

By MATTHEW LEE  
AND DEB RIECHMANN  
Associated Press

President Donald Trump signed a proclamation on Monday recognizing Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights, reversing more than a half-century of U.S. policy.

Standing alongside Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the White House, Trump made formal a move he announced in a tweet last week. The president said it was time for the U.S. to take the step after 52 years of Israeli control of the strategic highlands on the border with Syria.

Israel had pressed for such recognition for months. Trump's action gives him a political boost weeks before what's expected to be a close Israeli election.

Israel captured the Golan from Syria in the 1967 Mideast War, but its sovereignty over the territory is not recognized by the international community.

"Today, aggressive action by Iran and terrorist groups in southern Syria, including Hezbollah, continue to make the Golan Heights a potential launching ground for attacks against Israel — very violent attacks," Trump said. "This should have been done numerous presidents ago."

The two leaders met as the

Israeli military was striking Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip in response to a rocket that hit a house north of Tel Aviv and wounded seven people.

"Israel is responding forcefully to this wanton aggression," said Netanyahu, who planned to return to Israel to manage the attack following his meeting with Trump and other U.S. officials, including Vice President Mike Pence.

**Benjamin Netanyahu**  
Israeli prime minister

He added: "Israel will not tolerate this. I will not tolerate it."

In a speech earlier Monday, Pence said the rocket attack "proves that Hamas is not a partner for peace." Pence told the American Israel Public Affairs Committee that "Hamas is a terrorist organization that seeks the destruction of Israel, and the United States will never negotiate with terrorist Hamas."

The rocket destroyed a residential home in the farming com-

munity of Mishmeret, north of the city of Kfar Saba. The sounds of air raid sirens jolted residents of the Sharon area, northeast of Tel Aviv, from their sleep shortly after 5 a.m., sending them scurrying to bomb shelters.

A strong sound of an explosion followed. The Israeli military quickly mobilized troops and called up reserves, setting the stage for a potential major confrontation shortly before Israel's upcoming elections.

Netanyahu arrived in Washington on Sunday for what was to have been a three-day visit.

In his remarks, Pence also took issue with comments by Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-Minn., that he said were anti-Semitic.

Omar, a first-term lawmaker who is one of two Muslim women in Congress, has alleged that congressional support for Israel reflected "allegiance to a foreign country" and that Israel "has hypnotized the world."

She also has accused Americans who support Israel of being bought off by campaign donations.

"Anti-Semitism has no place in the Congress of the United States, and any member who slanders those who support the historic alliance between the United States and Israel with such rhetoric should not have a seat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee," Pence said.



SUSAN WALSH/AP

President Donald Trump listens as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, speaks Monday in the Diplomatic Reception Room at the White House.



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

Police officers inspect the damage to a house hit by a rocket in Mishmeret, central Israel, on Monday.

## Flash floods in Iran kill at least 17; 74 injured

Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Flash floods in southern Iran have killed at least 17 people and injured 74, Iranian state TV reported on Monday.

Heavy rains outside the city of Shiraz triggered the sudden flooding, according to the head of Iran's emergency medical services, Pirhossein Kouliand.

State TV earlier said most of the people killed had been trying to take videos of the flooding on their phones.

The provinces of Fars, Kurdistan, Qom and Isfahan were on alert for imminent flooding, and the water authority in the capital, Tehran, said floods were a possibility there as well.

Enayattollah Rahimi, governor of Fars province, said the flooding is under control and aid work is in progress but asked people



MOHSEN ESMAELIZADEH, ISNA/AP

Military vehicles rescue people after flash flooding around the northern city of Aq Qala, in Golestan province, Iran, on Monday.

"to stay in their homes," the semiofficial ISNA news agency reported.

The northern provinces of Golestan and Mazandaran have been struggling with flooding for more than a week, and five people

have been killed, according to the state-run Press TV channel.

More than 56,000 people have been affected in various cities and rural areas in the two provinces as a result of heavy rainfall that hit last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Iran's meteorology department had warned about the heavy rains in various areas across Iran.

Last year, at least 30 people were killed by flash floods in the Iranian province of Eastern Azerbaijan.

## Amid mix-up, plane lands in wrong country

Associated Press

LONDON — The flight on Monday seemed to go perfectly well until passengers realized that their plane had landed in both the wrong city and the wrong country.

The British Airways flight from London City Airport was supposed to head to Duesseldorf, Germany, but ended up in Edinburgh, the capital of Scotland.

The airline said Monday the problem started when an incorrect flight plan was filed by WDL Aviation, which operated the flight on behalf of British Airways.

Officials said the pilot followed the flight plan for Edinburgh, and that air traffic control officials also were following the same flight plan and saw nothing amiss.

WDL aviation said it was trying to determine the cause of the "obviously unfortunate mix-up."

The flight was refueled and set off again, this time directly to Duesseldorf.

## WORLD

# Militia head denies link to Mali massacre

By BABA AHMED  
Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali — The head of an ethnic Dogon militia blamed for a massacre in central Mali denied Monday that his fighters had been involved in the gruesome attack that left 154 dead in an ethnic Peuhl village.

Youssouf Toloba also dismissed the Malian president's vow to eliminate the group, saying "he isn't the one who created it."

Human Rights Watch has said that Toloba's ethnic militia known as Dan Na Ambassagou has been implicated in scores of deadly attacks over the past year. The militia has accused ethnic Peuhl of collaborating with Islamic ex-

tremists increasingly operating in central Mali.

Suspicion immediately fell on the group after Saturday's massacre in Ogossagou, an ethnic Peuhl village in central Mali. Graphic video after the attack showed bodies burned inside homes with some wreckage still on fire. At one point the body of a young boy in a football jersey can be seen.

Toloba maintained in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday that his fighters were not responsible. He defended his militia, saying it was necessary because the Malian military was failing to respond to violence in Dogon villages.

"We had signed a cease-fire agreement and the government



Burned debris is shown at the scene of a violent attack which left at least 134 people dead in a central Mali village.

promised to secure Dogon country but then nothing was done," he said.

"If the government and the international community want this war to stop, I invite them to hold an intercommunal dialogue during which all the armed groups in central Mali can discuss it," he continued. "It's the only way to bring peace back to the region."

While Toloba insists his militia fighters are protecting Dogon villages, they are believed to have access to semi-autonomous weapons, making their attacks on

Peuhl communities particularly deadly.

The militia leader's comments come a day after Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita had a special Cabinet meeting to address the weekend bloodshed and vowed to wipe out Dan Na Ambassagou.

His pledge was met with skepticism given the numerous challenges the government faces.

The Peuhl and Dogon ethnic groups had long co-existed peacefully but that has unraveled over the last several years.

## Firebomb thrown at home of Greek official

ATHENS, Greece — Greek police say an unknown assailant threw a firebomb at the Athens home of the country's deputy health minister in a pre-dawn attack that caused minor damage and no injuries.

Authorities detained four people on suspicion of involvement in Monday's attack outside the home of Pavlos Polakis. Three of them were later released, while one remained in custody for a separate issue, as he was found to be in the country illegally and was awaiting deportation.

Polakis, a colorful figure who has often sparked controversy, issued an enraged response on social media, accusing the "shadow state" of being behind the attack and saying it was because he had helped uncover political scandals in Greece.

## 5 killed in shooting in China's Inner Mongolia

BEIJING — Five people died Monday in a shooting in China's Inner Mongolia region, authorities said.

An individual shot and killed five people before being apprehended by police, according to authorities in Inner Mongolia's eastern Kalu county.

Gun crime is rare in China, where private firearm ownership is almost entirely forbidden. But guns can be purchased on the black market through online dealers.

## Charitable Kenyan man wins \$1M teacher prize

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — A Kenyan teacher from a remote village who gave away most of his earnings to the poor won a \$1 million prize on Sunday for his work teaching in a government-run school that has just one computer and shoddy internet access.

The annual Global Teacher Prize was awarded to Peter Tabichi in the opulent Atlantis Hotel in Dubai in a ceremony hosted by actor Hugh Jackman.

Tabichi said the farthest he'd traveled before this was to Uganda. Coming to Dubai marked his first time on an airplane.

## German family with Nazi ancestry to give \$11M

BERLIN — One of Germany's richest families, whose company owns a controlling interest in Krispy Kreme Doughnuts, Panera Bread, Pretz a Manger and other well-known businesses, plans to donate millions to charity after learning about their ancestors' enthusiastic support of Adolf Hitler and use of forced laborers under the Nazis, according to a report Sunday.

In a four-page report, The Bild newspaper reported that documents uncovered in Germany, France and the U.S. reveal that Albert Reimann Sr. and Albert Reimann Jr. used Russian civilians and French POWs as forced laborers.

From The Associated Press

## Partial results in Thai vote lead to conflicting claims

Associated Press

BANGKOK — A military-backed party that based on unofficial results won the most votes in Thailand's first election since a 2014 coup said Monday it will try to form a government after a rival party also claimed it had the right to govern.

The conflicting claims following Sunday's election highlight the deep divisions in Thailand, which has been wracked by political instability for nearly two decades.

Uttama Savanayana, the head of the Palang Pracharat party that is backed by junta leader and Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, said it would contact like-minded parties to form a new administration.

But earlier Monday, Sudarat Keyuraphan, leader of the Pheu Thai party that was ousted in the 2014 coup, said it would try to form a government because it won the most constituency races. The party is allied with exiled

Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra.

"As we have said before, the party with the most seats is the one that has received the confidence from the people to set up the government," Sudarat said.

But the party faces an uphill battle because selection of the next prime minister will be decided by the 500-member lower house as well as a 250-member junta-appointed Senate.

The Election Commission announced the results of 350 constituency races but said full vote counts, which are needed to determine the allocation of 150 other seats in the House of Representatives, won't be available until Friday.

Unofficial results show Palang Pracharat had the highest popular vote, which along with the appointed Senate puts Prayuth in a relatively strong position to stay in office and cobble together a coalition government.

Analysts say the next government is likely to be unstable and



Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, right, arrives at the Government House of Thailand in Bangkok on Monday.

short-lived, whichever party leads it.

The election is the latest chapter in a nearly two-decade struggle pitching conservative forces

including the military against the political machine of Thaksin, a tycoon who upended tradition-bound Thailand politics with a populist political revolution.

## Norway to open investigation into cruise in stormy weather

Associated Press

COPENHAGEN, Denmark — Norwegian officials said Monday they have opened an investigation into why a cruise ship carrying more than 1,300 people set sail despite storm warnings, forcing a major evacuation after a mayday call was issued.

Dag S. Liseth, of Norway's Ac-

cident Investigations Board, said that "the high risk which the ship, its passengers and crew were exposed to made us decide to investigate the incident."

The Viking Ship is now docked in the port city of Molde — 241 miles northwest of Oslo — which eventually managed to reach on its own engines after a daring rescue operation in which 479

passengers were airlifted to land. The Viking Ship had engine trouble Saturday afternoon off Hustadvika, just north of Molde, and sent out a mayday call.

The ship was drifting toward the rocky coast. Many shipwrecks have occurred in the area through the years.

The airlift evacuation was conducted Saturday night and into

Sunday morning, slowing for a bit when two of the five rescue helicopters had to be diverted to save nine crewmembers from a nearby ailing cargo ship.

Liseth said investigators were headed to Molde on Monday and declined to speculate as to why the Viking Ship captain had decided to sail despite the weather warning.

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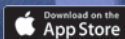
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# BUSINESS/WEATHER



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

An American Airlines Boeing 737 MAX 8 sits at a boarding gate at LaGuardia Airport in New York on March 13.

## American Airlines extends its 737 Max-related cancellations

Associated Press

NEW YORK — American Airlines is extending cancellations of flights through April 24 due to the grounding of Boeing 737 Max aircraft, as federal regulators continue to investigate two deadly crashes involving the plane model. Southwest Airlines is also continuing to make cancellations.

American has 24 Boeing 737 Max aircraft in its fleet and said Sunday that it will be canceling about 90 flights a day. Not every flight that was previously scheduled to be on a Max aircraft will be canceled, and some flights scheduled to fly on other aircraft types may ultimately be canceled. The airline said it will contact affected flyers directly.

Southwest, which has 34 Max aircraft, is making cancellations

five days in advance, with an average of 130 daily cancellations. On Saturday, it also began to ferry all of its Max aircraft to a facility in Victorville, Calif., without passengers, to free up space at the airports where they had been parked.

United Airlines, which has 14 Max aircraft, does not have any flights scheduled on the equipment through April 9. It doesn't expect any future cancellations as a result of the grounding of the planes, and it is using alternate aircraft to make up for their being grounded.

Aviation authorities around the world grounded Boeing 737 Max aircraft earlier this month following deadly crashes involving the plane model in Ethiopia and off the coast of Indonesia which occurred within five months of each other.

# Business economists see a slowdown in US growth

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's business economists foresee a sharp slowdown in U.S. economic growth over the next two years, in sharp contrast to the Trump administration's predictions that growth will accelerate this year and next.

That finding comes from the latest survey by the National Association for Business Economics released Monday. Its economists collectively project that growth, as measured by the gross domestic product, will reach a modest 2.4 this year and just 2 percent in 2020.

Among the key factors in their dimmer assessment are a global slowdown and the ongoing trade conflicts between the Trump administration and several major trading partners.

Still, the NABE economists say they think a recession remains unlikely any time soon.

For 2018, economic growth amounted to 2.9 percent, the government has estimated. The economy benefited last year from tax cuts and increased government spending, the gains from which are now thought to be fading. It's one reason why most economists foresee more sluggish growth.

The new NABE projections, from a panel of 55 professional forecasters, represent a significant drop from their previous forecast in December of 2.7 percent growth this year. And their estimate is much lower than the Trump's administration's new projection that GDP growth will

**'A majority of panelists sees external headwinds from trade policy and slower global growth as the primary downside risks to growth.'**

**Gregory Daco**  
chief U.S. economist for Oxford Economics

remain above 3 percent this year and over the next six years.

But the administration is already projecting deficits above \$1 trillion over the next four years. If growth falls short of its optimistic forecasts, those deficit figures could soar even higher and inhibit the economy's ability to accelerate.

The NABE forecast is in line with the updated outlook the Federal Reserve released last week. The Fed projected that GDP growth would slow to 2.1 percent this year and 1.9 percent in 2020, having downgraded its previous estimates to take account of the global slump and other risks.

The NABE economists attributed their weaker outlook in part to a growing economic drag from President Donald Trump's trade policies. The import taxes that Trump has imposed on China and some other nations have prompted retaliatory tariffs on

U.S. exports.

"A majority of panelists sees external headwinds from trade policy and slower global growth as the primary downside risks to growth," said Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist for Oxford Economics and the chair of the NABE survey panel.

### EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (March 26)	\$1.1617
Dollar buys (March 26)	€0.8608
British pound (March 26)	\$1.36
Japanese yen (March 26)	108.00
South Korean won (March 26)	1,136.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.3222
Canada (Dollar)	1.3437
China (Yuan)	6.7128
Denmark (Krone)	6.5963
Egypt (Pound)	17.3001
Euro	\$1.1316/0.8837
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.8484
Hungary (Forint)	280.15
Israel (Shekel)	3.6245
Japan (Yen)	109.97
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3034
Norway (Krone)	8.5473
Philippines (Peso)	52.49
Poland (Zloty)	3.80
Saudi (Riyal)	3.7501
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3504
South Korea (Won)	1,133.66
Taiwan (New Taiwan Dollar)	0.9927
Thailand (Baht)	31.63
Turkey (Lira)	6.5159
Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance. For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom, or nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)	

### INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.50
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate	4.40
3-month bill	2.39
30-year bond	2.89

## WEATHER OUTLOOK



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

# AMERICAN ROUNDUP

## Homicide case against baby sitter to proceed

**WI WAUSAU** — A judge has refused to throw out the case against a Wisconsin baby sitter accused of killing a 2-month-old boy, and then pretending he was alive when she gave the baby back to his mother.

Marathon County Circuit Court Judge LaMont Jacobson ruled Friday there was enough evidence to proceed with the case against Marissa Tietzort, 28, of Wausau.

A criminal complaint alleges Tietzort caused the baby's death in October, then put him in a snowsuit and car seat and returned him to his mother — without telling her the child was dead.

Tietzort is charged with first-degree intentional homicide. She remains in the Marathon County Jail on a \$500,000 cash bond.

## Driver, 91, rolls car trying to answer phone

**IN PENDLETON** — Police said a woman, 91, rolled her car while trying to answer her cellphone.

The Madison County Sheriff's Department said the woman had cuts on an arm and hand and pain in her back.

The Herald Bulletin reported that she was driving west on U.S. 36 Friday when her Honda Civic left the road, went into a ditch and struck an embankment.

The car landed on its top.

## Man takes plea deal in death of his wife

**NJ WOODBURY** — A New Jersey man accused of killing his wife, dumping her body in their backyard swimming pool and then driving to a local restaurant to get takeout in an attempt to cover up the killing has reportedly accepted a plea deal calling for a 15-year prison term.

NJ.com reported that Norman Long, 53, pleaded guilty earlier this month to an amended charge of first-degree aggravated manslaughter, according to a copy of the plea agreement. He is to be sentenced May 3.

Prosecutors, who declined to comment Friday, said Long told first responders in June 2017 that Michelle Long, 47, drowned in the pool, but an autopsy found the cause of death was blunt force trauma.

## Officer allegedly breaks into home, is arrested

**SC SUMMERVILLE** — A Summerville police lieutenant was arrested after authorities say he forced his way into a woman's home.

The Post and Courier reported Lt. Nicholas Morella, 47, is being held on one count of first-degree burglary. On Friday he was placed on administrative leave without pay.

Summerville police were called about 3 a.m. Friday by a woman, 41, who reported that Morella was trying to break into his home. An arrest warrant said Morella contacted the woman nu-

## THE CENSUS

**29** The number of cows an Idaho rancher said died in winter storms in Washington state, but investigators suspect he let them starve. The Tri-City Herald reported that James Peter Marek, 42, of Slate Creek, appeared in Franklin County Superior Court last week after being accused of animal cruelty. He filed a claim with the U.S. Department of Agriculture in February saying he lost an unspecified number of cows during a blizzard. The Franklin County Sheriff's Office said investigators found no sign that Marek's cows had been provided any food, and there were no tire tracks in the snow suggesting they'd been attended to. A judge ordered Marek released from custody Thursday.



JOSHUA L. JONES, ATHENS (GA.) BANNER-HERALD/AP

## Opening day dash

An East Athens Little Leaguer runs for first base during opening day at Satterfield Park in Athens, Ga., on Saturday. The league celebrated its 50th anniversary.

merous times but she didn't initially respond.

Investigators say she ultimately told him if he came over she would call police. He came anyway, and police said the woman, armed with a firearm, hid in a closet until they arrived.

## People warned about wounded trooper scams

**MT MISSOULA** — The Montana Highway Patrol is advising people to beware of scams targeting those who want to help a trooper wounded this month in a shooting.

The Daily Inter Lake reported that the patrol on Friday warned people of a fraudulent GoFundMe account and a phone scam targeting people seeking to make a do-

nation to benefit Trooper Wade Palmer.

Early on March 15, Palmer was shot three times inside his patrol vehicle north of Missoula while investigating a fatal shooting. He's being treated at a hospital in Utah where he's in critical condition. Police have a suspect in custody.

## Newspaper posts video of high-wire accident

**FL SARASOTA** — A Florida newspaper has posted video of a 2017 high-wire accident that sent five performers in tightrope-walking star Nik Wallenda's troupe tumbling more than 30 feet to the ground.

The Sarasota Herald-Tribune obtained the video from the Sara-

sota County Sheriff's Office.

Wallenda was among eight performers rehearsing in pyramid formation when one began to wobble. The video shows five performers plummeting to the ground, while Wallenda and two others catch themselves on a wire and Circus Sarasota staff rush to help.

No one died. One of Wallenda's injured relatives has pending litigation related to her injuries.

## Body left for 2 months in impounded vehicle

**TN MEMPHIS** — Eight Memphis police officers and an attendant are facing punishment after they failed to see that a vehicle brought to a police impound lot in 2017 con-

tained a victim's body for almost two months.

According to local news reports, Memphis police Director Michael Rallings said Friday that lot attendant John Powell was fired and Sgt. Lee Allison was demoted to patrol officer in the incident that left the body of Mexican immigrant Bardomiano Perez Hernandez, 33, inside a van at the impound lot.

Others faced suspensions and lesser punishments.

Authorities didn't notice Hernandez's body in the van after answering an attempted robbery call in December 2017. The body remained behind the front seat of the van until February, when the vehicle's owner went to the impound lot to reclaim his van.

## Police: Drunk woman urinated on luggage

**NC CHARLOTTE** — Police said a drunk passenger urinated on another passenger's luggage during a flight from Chicago to Charlotte.

News outlets reported that American Airlines asked law enforcement to meet Flight 1344 once it arrived in Charlotte at 12:52 a.m. Thursday.

A police report said the victim was a female passenger. The report did not say whether any charges would be filed against the drunk passenger.

A spokeswoman for the Charlotte office of the FBI told the Charlottesville Observer on Saturday that the FBI was notified of the police report Friday. The FBI investigates criminal offenses during airline flights.

## Kodak says beer can develop Super 8 film

**NY ROCHESTER** — Kodak says a new beer hitting the market can be used to develop its Super 8 movie film.

Dogfish Head Craft Brewery of Delaware created its Super-Eight beer after a conversation with people at Kodak, the upstate New York technology company most famous for its photographic roots.

Dogfish learned from Kodak that heightened levels of acidity and vitamin C in certain beers could make a processing agent for film. That inspired the brewery to design such a beer. Kodak helped by testing it.

Dogfish founder Sam Calagione said he'll document his summer travels on Super 8 film that will be developed in SuperEight beer and turned into a short film.

The beer is set for national distribution next month.

From wire reports

## FACES



# ‘We are all worth it’

## Blues rocker Gary Clark Jr. gets angry to confront racism on song ‘This Land’

BY RYAN PEARSON  
Associated Press

**G**ary Clark Jr. has created a lot of conversation with “This Land,” the provocative first song off his latest album that shares the same name.

In the angry blues-rock song, he recounts racial epithets hurled his way and other racist taunts before he defiantly asserts that he too is “America’s son.” In the accompanying video, young black children confront racist imagery, including a noose, among other disturbing things.

Clark says the song was sparked after he sensed a change in his Austin, Texas, neighborhood during the 2016 presidential election campaign between Hillary Clinton and eventual victor Donald Trump, and then a confrontation with a neighbor prompted him to write it.

“I would be driving home and I would see a lot more Trump signs than Clinton. Things in the news, there started to be conversation about — something shifted. I don’t know all of it. I’m not going to try and explain all of it, but you could see it in the news and what the narrative was. Having two young ones, it kind of made me concerned about what we were getting into,” said the 35-year-old musician.

Clark Jr. says a neighbor met him outside the home he’d recently purchased and told him there was no way he — a black man — could be its owner.

“I had to deal with something out in front of my house — I’m going to check the mail and I’m with my kid and I’m confronted by racism at my front door. And I’m like man,

what time is it? What day is it? Where are we?” he said.

“I think it was something I was just sitting on for a while. I was taught to just be quiet and let things pass. And I was just tired of it. It’s like, I’m here, we are here. Strong, confident, we’re not going anywhere,” he added. “So you’re not going to tell me that I’m not worth it. You’re not going to tell anyone else that they’re not worth it. Because we all are.”

Clark Jr. now has two children with his wife Nicole Trunfio, a white Australian model. He laughs at Twitter trolls who have called his latest song “reverse racism.”

“How? Do you see my wife and my children? You know what I mean? Look at my band. We look like the Village People. There’s somebody from everywhere.” (Sighs) “Out of darkness comes the light. So with the rest of the album, there are brighter notes. And the idea is hope and love and just showing love to people,” Clark said.

The genre-hopping artist says he crafted the rest of his album with a hip-hop producer’s mindset, sampling from a wide range of musical styles, crafting lyrics about politics and his personal life, then laying down his trademark guitar riffs.

“In my mind, I’m trying to be like Dr. Dre, Dilla, DJ Premier, RZA, the Wu-Tang Clan. I love that stuff. So that’s kind of what I do if I’m not playing guitar,” he said. “In the studio, there’s so many options. ... It’s like man, let’s just have fun with it all. So that’s how I approached it. I just didn’t care. I just want to make what I feel. You can call it what you want, but I call it music.”

**Gary Clark Jr. says most of his latest album, “This Land,” encourages hope and love.**

Jack Plunkett, Invision/AP

# Peele’s ‘Us’ shatters box-office records for horror with \$70.3M

From wire services

Jordan Peele has done it again. Two years after the filmmaker’s “Get Out” became a box-office sensation, his frightening follow-up, “Us,” debuted with \$70.3 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The opening, well above forecasts, had few parallels. It was the largest debut for an original horror film (only the “It” remake and last year’s “Halloween” have surpassed it in the genre) and one of the highest openings for a live-action original film since “Avatar” was released 10 years ago.

“Us” took over the top spot at the box office from “Captain Marvel,” which had reigned for two weeks. The Marvel Studios superhero release slid to second place with \$35 million in its third week. In three weeks of release, it’s made \$910 million worldwide, and will soon become the first \$1 billion release of 2019.

Other holdovers — the animated amusement “Wonder Park” and the cystic fibrosis teen romance “Five Feet Apart” — trailed in third and fourth with about \$9 million each in their second week.

But the weekend belatedly overwhelmed “Us,” which more than doubled the \$33.4 million domestic debut of 2017’s Oscar-winning “Get Out.”

“Us” cost \$20 million to make, meaning it’s already a huge hit for Peele and Universal Pictures.

It’s also, as Peele has said, more thoroughly a horror film.

“Us” stars Lupita Nyong’o and Winston Duke as vacationing parents whose family is faced with eerie doppelgangers of themselves. The film added \$16.7 million from 47 international territories.

## Streisand apologizes for remarks on Jackson accusers

Barbra Streisand apologized March 23 for her remarks about Michael Jackson and two men who have accused him of sexual abuse, saying that she should have chosen her words more carefully and that she admires the accusers for “speaking their truth.”

Streisand had received bitter criticism online after she was quoted in The Times of London as saying that Jackson’s accusers were “thrilled to be there” during the alleged abuse, which “didn’t kill them.”

After an initial statement March 23 to The Associated Press in which she sought to clarify her remarks, the superstar of song, stage and screen posted an apology online that went further.

“I am profoundly sorry for any pain or

misunderstanding I caused by not choosing my words more carefully about Michael Jackson and his victims,” she wrote.

“I didn’t mean to dismiss the trauma these boys experienced in any way,” she wrote. “Like all survivors of sexual assault, they will have to carry this for the rest of their lives. I feel deep remorse and hope that James and Wade know that I truly respect and admire them for speaking their truth.”

## Cardi B to trademark ‘Okurr!’

“Okurr!” Cardi B’s signature trill, is being trademarked by the rapper.

The newly minted Grammy winner filed the application with the United States Patent and Trademark Office this month to reserve the catchphrase for use on “paper goods, namely paper cups and posters,” according to the application.

Washoppin Inc., Cardi’s New York-based cosmetics company, was listed as the owner of the mark.

“To the best of the signatory’s knowledge and belief, no other persons, except, if applicable, concurrent users, have the right to use the mark in commerce, either in the identical form or in such near resemblance as to be likely, when used on or in connection with the goods/services of such other persons, to cause confusion or mistake, or

to deceive,” the fine print on the application said.

The “Money” and “I Like It” rapper also plans to put the word on clothing.

On “The Tonight Show,” the Bronx-born rapper said the popular catchphrase — also the subject of Pepsi’s Super Bowl 2019 commercial — is like the sound a “cold pigeon in New York City” makes.

## Other news

■ Singer and songwriter Scott Walker, whose hits with the Walker Brothers in the 1960s included “The Sun Ain’t Gonna Shine Anymore,” has died. He was 76. The Walker Brothers enjoyed a string of hits that also included “Make It Easy on Yourself.” Scott Walker later went on to produce numerous songs, movie scores and a number of solo albums. The Walker Brothers were hugely popular in Britain at a time when the music scene was dominated by the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. They also enjoyed hits in the United States. Walker left the band to pursue a solo career when the Walker Brothers were near their commercial peak.

■ Larry Cohen, the maverick B-movie director of cult horror films like “It’s Alive” and “God Told Me To,” died March 23. He was 77.

# SHIFTING GEARS

## In a class of its own



Photos courtesy of Mercedes-Benz

## 2019 Mercedes AMG S63 has updated design, high-tech safety options

By BARRY SPYKER  
Tribune News Service

**T**he 2019 S-Class from Mercedes has undergone a midlife "refresh," we're told, but a closer examination reveals it's more refreshing than one might think.

Take the AMG S63 Cabriolet. At first glance, one sees the same elegant front fascia, muscular hood and smooth profile. But it also has some striking new design tweaks, like new tail lights comprising 66 "floating" organic LEDs that present a virtual 3-D light show when the car is locked or unlocked. And new 20-inch, 10-spoke wheels with red brake calipers. And revised bumpers and exhaust tips.

Add more new technology and safety gadgets and classy new interior trims, and it's one pretty impressive "refresh."

The Cabrio, launched in 2015, keeps its couplelike appearance with a rigid three-layer fabric roof, which minimizes noise. The top goes up or down in 20 seconds, at speeds up to 37 mph, and an electric divider automatically partitions the trunk to stash the roof — yet still leave seven cubes of space for luggage.

Mercedes' Air-Scarf neck heater, which

### 2019 Mercedes AMG S63



MSRP: \$180,100

**What's all the excitement about?** Mercedes flagship drop-top, the S63 AMG Cabriolet, returns with more standard features, colorful design choices and high-tech safety options.

**Powertrain:** 4.0-liter twin-turbocharged V-8 engine; 4Matic all-wheel-drive standard; 9-speed AMG Speedshift transmission

**EPA fuel economy rating:** 15 mpg city/24 highway/18 combined

TNS

allows you to expand the top-down season, and wind deflectors both are standard features for 2019. A Warmth Comfort Package (\$1,990) adds heated front armrests

and steering wheel.

A new flat-bottom AMG performance steering wheel (in wood-leather) is racy but also functional. It has touch-sensitive controls that enable you to toggle through all the menus on the 12.3-inch dual screens. That means, for the first time, you never have to take your hands off the wheel.

There are three different layouts on the digital instrument panel — Classic, Sporty or Progressive — and they are adaptable so you can reconfigure the data to your liking. The navigation map, too, was updated this year to include helpful alerts on the weather, fuel prices and free parking along your route.

The 2019 has three new wood trims: a glossy brown burl walnut, satin-finish ash gray, and something called Design Magnolia Flowing Lines which is really striking.

Most important to AMGers is the powerplant, led by a hand-built 4.0-liter twin-turbo V-8 engine that builds to 603 hp and 664 pound-feet of torque. It delivers the 4,800-pound, bull-turned-cheetah to 60 mph in just 3.4 seconds.

It's not a punishing sprint but a smooth, forceful run through the nine gears. The multi-clutch transmission will, however,

lurch aggressively when the accelerator is mashed. And, it's not overly loud unless you want it to be — there is a button to ramp up the exhaust volume.

Credit Merc's 4Matic all-wheel-drive system for the superb handling, balance and traction on curves. The front seat — exquisitely quilted and contoured — has active side bolsters to provide lateral support on corners.

Mercedes' Airmatic suspension continually adapts to road conditions and can even self-level to account for varying loads.

Fuel economy is aided by a cylinder deactivation system but the S63 AMG isn't here for mpg bragging rights. EPA estimates 15 mpg city, 24 highway for 18 combined.

New tech-safety options include a Driver Assist Package (\$2,250) which essentially converts the S63 into a semi-autonomous vehicle. An Active Distance feature keeps it a safe distance from the car in front and takes evasive action if necessary. Active Speed automatically adjusts the speed ahead of curves and intersections.

Mercedes' flagship cabriolet was already one of the best full-size drop-tops out there. The new safety aids, AMG power and design choices just strengthen the argument.

## SUVs dominate list of vehicles that last 200K-plus miles

By MARK PHELAN  
Detroit Free Press

SUVs justify their workhorse reputation in a survey of longest lasting vehicles by car-buying website iSeeCars.com.

The vehicles most likely to reach 200,000 miles or more are overwhelmingly likely to be SUVs, according to the website's analysis of 13.8 million used cars sold in 2018. Vehicles in the survey were built from 1981 to 2018. The survey is not about how quickly they accumulate high mileage, but the

proportion of those products that were sold after doing it.

Eight of the 10 vehicles most likely to make it to 200,000 miles were SUVs. The other two are pickups. Just 0.8 percent of all vehicles are sold after traveling at least 200,000 miles, according to the study.

Nationwide, the top five and the number reaching 200K are:

Toyota Sequoia — 7.4 percent  
Chevrolet Suburban — 5.0 percent

Ford Expedition — 5.0 percent  
GMC Yukon XL — 4.0 percent

Toyota 4Runner — 3.9 percent  
The Toyota Highlander hybrid is another surprise, coming in at seventh place among all vehicles with 3.1 percent reaching 200,000 miles. It ranked No. 1 among green cars, an all-hybrid category dominated by Toyota.

Indianapolis and Birmingham, Ala., led the list of cities with the most cars topping 200,000 miles, tied at 2.3 percent. Grand Rapids and Kalamazoo, Mich., considered a single metropolitan area for the study, came in third with 2.1 percent. No state had more

than one city on the list. SUVs' longevity is no surprise, but some of the other results may be. The two brands whose vehicles are most likely to reach 200,000 miles are Japanese, followed by four from Detroit:

Toyota — 1.7 percent  
Honda — 1.5 percent  
GMC — 1.4 percent  
Chevrolet — 1.2 percent  
Ram — 1.1 percent  
Ford — 1.0 percent

The longest-lasting luxury vehicles also run counter to expectations. None of the top four is

from traditional European luxury makers:

Lincoln Navigator — 2.2 percent  
Cadillac Escalade — 1.5 percent  
Acura MDX — 1.4 percent  
Cadillac Escalade ESV — 1.3 percent

Two traditional European brands with reputations for lasting a long time round out the top eight. They are Volvo XC90 and S60 and Mercedes S-class and E-class.

# Stripes

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Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher  
Lt. Col. Sean Kirmek, Europe commander  
Lt. Col. Richard McClintic, Pacific commander  
Harry Eley, Europe Business Operations

## EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor  
leatond.terry@stripes.com  
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor  
reid.robert@stripes.com  
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content  
croley.tina@stripes.com  
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation  
moores.sean@stripes.com  
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital  
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

## BUREAU STAFF

## Europe/Mideast

Erin Slavin, Europe & Mideast Bureau Chief  
slavin.erin@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9350; DSN (314)583.9350

## Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief  
kidd.aaron@stripes.com  
+41.452.552.2511 ext. 88380; DSN (315)227.380

## Washington

Joseph Cacchioli, Washington Bureau Chief  
cacchioli.joseph@stripes.com  
+1(202)886-0033  
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News  
bowers.brian@stripes.com

## CIRCULATION

## Mideast

Robert Reisman, Mideast Circulation Manager  
robert.w.reisman@mail.mil  
socialcirculation@stripes.com  
DSN (314)583-9111

## Europe

Memberservices@stripes.com  
+49(0)631.3615.9111; DSN (314)583.9111

## Pacific

Mer Mori, customerhelp@stripes.com  
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)229.3171

## CONTACT US

## Washington

tel: +1(202) 886-0005  
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

## Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

## Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

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## OPINION

## Trump won but the country is losing

By RAMESH PONNURU  
Bloomberg News

There's no way for President Donald Trump's opponents to spin it away. He just won a big victory and the Russia collusion story is over. Here are my takeaways.

First: It is highly likely that Trump and his campaign didn't collude with the Russian government or its agents to influence the outcome of the 2016 campaign. Special counsel Robert Mueller didn't find evidence to suggest that he did, and it's reasonable to have a strong presumption that if it had happened, Mueller would have discovered it and reported it. We should therefore conclude that it didn't happen. Of course, this conclusion depends on Attorney General William Barr's having summarized the report accurately and fairly.

Second: While some Trump critics on Twitter are wishfully pointing out that Barr's letter isn't the same as Mueller's report, the letter almost certainly summarized the report accurately and fairly. The letter was short and to the point, and it didn't create much wiggle room. Barr wouldn't claim the report found no evidence of collusion unless it did, because he would be found out and his reputation destroyed. He wouldn't claim that the report reached no conclusion about obstruction of justice and left it to the Justice Department to decide the question unless it did. Leave contrary speculation to the fever swamps.

Third: The evidence on obstruction of justice will turn out to be equivocal. Note that Barr (with, he says, the agreement of Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein)

found that the evidence does not justify the conclusion that Trump had obstructed justice, period. The letter specifically ruled out the possibility that Trump obstructed justice but could not be indicted because he is a sitting president. The full report, we can infer, tells a story about Trump's actions and motives that is susceptible to multiple interpretations — which is to say that while the report may add more detail to the arguments we have been having for the last two years about the firing of James Clapper, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, it won't settle them.

Fourth: Mueller was not engaged in a witch hunt. There were legitimate reasons to investigate Trump. Russia did, after all, interfere in the election. His campaign was full of shady characters, several of whom are now in prison. Perhaps the investigation should have been carried out by congressional committees instead of a special prosecutor, and perhaps Mueller made some mistakes. But the record suggests that the portrayal of Mueller as a corrupt agent of the deep state bent on bringing down Trump was a fantasy, or worse, spread by some of the president's most committed supporters.

Fifth: Trump behaved terribly during the investigation. No president, and no person, can be expected to welcome an investigation into his conduct. Trump had every right, too, to pronounce his innocence and bat back misleading media coverage and Democratic rhetoric. But his attacks on Mueller and his use of Mueller's team, "They are a disgrace to our Nation and don't care how many lives they ruin" — were unjust, and unheeded. Trump's opponents

sometimes wrote that these presidential eruptions proved Trump had something to hide. The Barr letter adds to our reasons for thinking that no, they just confirmed the personality traits that led even many of the people who voted for Trump in 2016 to have serious reservations about him.

Sixth: Liberals, and sometimes conservative Trump opponents, repeatedly ran ahead of the evidence, sometimes going so far as to label Trump a "Russian agent" or "traitor." Breathless journalism made it sound as though Mueller was going to deliver a death blow to the presidency. One effect of this speculation was to work up a lot of liberals into a state of feverish excitement. Another was to make Trump look better by comparison to their theories. Normally, it would be a serious political problem for the White House if the president's campaign manager had been sentenced to prison for the rest of his life. It is largely his opponents by talking up fantasies about Donald Trump Jr. being arrested, who have kept it from being one.

Those last two points suggest to me that the president's flaws and excesses, and those of his critics, exacerbate each other rather than cancel each other out. They make for a political culture that is less and less conducive to sensible governance. That the president did not collude with the Russians is very good news. The bad news is the slide of our politics into a pit of folly and strife, and it is going to outlast the Russia collusion controversy.

Bloomberg Opinion columnist Ramesh Ponnuru is a senior editor at National Review, visiting fellow at the American Enterprise Institute and contributor to CBS News.

## Trump owes the special counsel an apology

By DAVID VON DREHLE

The Washington Post

Harper Lee understood, as she wrote "To Kill a Mockingbird," that many people would have trouble understanding her hero, Atticus Finch. Others talk; he acts. Others equivocate; he stands firm. Others sell out and call it victory; he suffers defeat without complaint because he would rather lose the world than lose his dignity and integrity.

Though such people are rare indeed, a society cannot manage without them. And so Lee has Miss Maudie Atkinson, the shrewdest of the Maycomb neighbors, explain Atticus to his own offspring. "There are some men in this world who are born to do our unpleasant jobs for us," she says. "Your father's one of them."

Robert Swan Mueller III is one, too and not in the safe pages of fiction but in the hot kitchen of real life. For nearly two years as special counsel investigating Russian interference in the 2016 election, Mueller has endured a nearly constant barrage of insults and character assassination from a Twittering President Donald Trump and his bootlicking propagandists.

There is only one explanation for the president's relentless attacks. He thought that Mueller was likely to throw the book at him. And there are only two explanations for that expectation. Either Trump knew he deserved it, or Trump assumed Mueller would sink to his own level of mendacity and self-serving to perversity justice. The idea that a public servant, indeed, a team of public servants, would quietly discharge a mission with honor was utterly beyond Trump's fathoming.

The country had an unpleasant job that needed doing. The president of the United

States had surrounded himself with people who lied about their contacts with highly placed Russians. He had fired the director of the FBI, James Comey, and within hours he personally assured the Russian ambassador that he did so to shut down an inquiry into these lies. It was possible all this could be explained as the product of incompetence and naivete, because Trump had been utterly unprepared for the presidency and was surrounded by gangsters and cronies. But we can also possibly something intentional was going on.

Someone had to sort out the facts. The task would be exhausting, it would be thankless and it would likely end in some degree of vilification.

Mueller's report has not yet been published, and there will be more to say about it when more of it has been seen. Perhaps parts of it will remain secret for years, if not decades. But we can say that Mueller on the tightest ship Washington has seen in a very long time, leakproof and diligent. And it appears he was more than fair to the president and the first family. According to Attorney General William Barr, Mueller alleged no collusion with the Russians — even though Donald Trump Jr. replied to an overt offer of Russian campaign assistance with a chirper "I love it."

That seems more than fair. Maybe the president will apologize now for his many months of attacks on the silent Mueller. I'm sorry, Trump might say, I guess you weren't on a witch hunt after all. I guess you didn't hire a bunch of partisan hacks, as I repeatedly charged. Thank you for doing your job with honesty and integrity.

Or maybe not.

From the beginning, Mueller's honor was something the president would never understand, much less appreciate. Though

contemporaries, the two men occupy different worlds and always have. As young men Mueller volunteered for service in Vietnam while Trump conjured a case of "bone spurs." Mueller completed a stellar academic record; Trump sent his personal lawyer, Michael Cohen, to threaten any school that might try to make his record public. Mueller devoted his career to his country; Trump was always and only out for himself.

The sad irony is that Trump will now wrap himself in Mueller's credibility to defend against further investigations. And while that might not be legally sufficient, the armor will probably serve well politically. After all, Trump said there was no collusion, period. If Mueller indeed found no collusion, the result will be a credibility infusion for a president who sorely needs one as he heads into his re-election campaign.

An honest person might be troubled by the incongruity, but we're not talking about an honest person. We're talking about Trump. He appears content to go on disparaging the Mueller investigation, while at the same time claiming "total exonerated" by Mueller's conclusions. Attack Mueller, embrace Mueller — it's all the same to a man whose self-absorption turns everyone into instruments of his own fleeting impulses. Or tries to, anyway.

So be it. What Mueller has done is more important than that.

He was called under difficult circumstances to drill straight down to a bedrock of facts and tell us, without bias, without slant, what he found. This was his job — our job — and it has been unpleasant indeed.

David Von Drehle is a Washington Post columnist. He is the author of "Rise to Greatness: Abraham Lincoln and America's Most Perilous Year."

# Looking at the news

A weekly sampling of U.S. editorial cartoons



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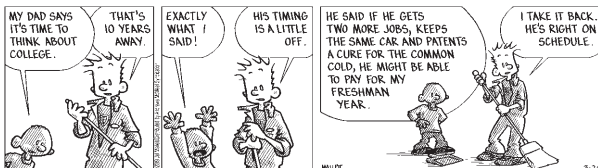
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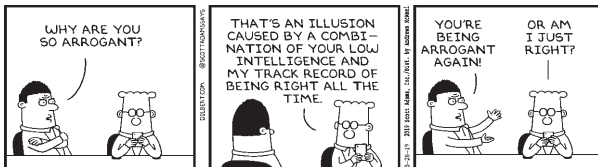
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Frazz



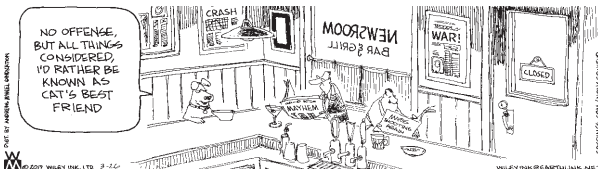
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18					19				20			
				21					22			
23	24	25			26				27	28	29	
30					31				32			
33					34	35			36	37		
					38				39			
40	41	42			43				44	45	46	
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

### ACROSS

- 1 Ancient Brit
- 5 Started
- 8 Fail to see
- 12 River to the Baltic
- 13 Spanish gold
- 14 "Do — others ..."
- 15 Opera set in Egypt
- 16 Used a Hoover, say
- 18 Baseball divisions
- 20 Diving ducks
- 21 Leb. neighbor
- 22 Ostrich's kin
- 23 Sousa composition
- 26 Empty, as a stare
- 30 Commotion
- 31 Melody
- 32 "Top Hat" studio
- 33 Flu foreteller
- 36 Autocrats
- 38 Tummy muscles
- 39 Chatter
- 40 Skirt style
- 43 Set of words
- 47 Work break
- 49 Nitwit
- 50 Pedestal occupant
- 51 In shape
- 52 Ancient Dead
- 53 Taxpayer IDs
- 54 NBC weekend show
- 55 Scarce

### DOWN

- 1 Furnace fuel
- 2 Falco of "Nurse Jackie"
- 3 Spartan queen
- 4 Very sad
- 5 Paramour
- 6 Historic periods
- 7 Physician's nickname
- 8 Hawaiian garment
- 9 "By the power vested — ..."
- 10 Leftovers recipe
- 11 Lays down the lawn
- 17 Gomer Pyle's org.
- 19 Show to a seat, slangly
- 22 Hearing thing
- 23 Dallas hoopster, briefly
- 24 Nabokov novel
- 25 Sinbad's bird
- 26 Compete
- 27 Man-mouse link
- 28 Kiev's land (Abbr.)
- 29 "Mayday!"
- 31 Reply (Abbr.)
- 34 Suez and Erie, e.g.
- 35 "Yeah, right"
- 36 Levy
- 37 Web master's title role
- 40 Hertz rival
- 41 Young fellows
- 42 PC picture
- 43 Pork cut
- 44 Musical finale
- 45 Bloodhound's clue
- 46 Alaskan city
- 48 Conditions

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	C	I	D	H	A	M	A	R	F	S
P	A	G	E	O	N	A	S	A	R	I
B	R	O	S	M	I	S	C	H	I	E
S	T	R	O	B	E	C	O	R	N	E
T	O	R	T	D	A	B				
M	I	S	O	S	O	U	P	M	O	M
U	S	A		C	O	L	A	S	W	A
M	O	R	T		M	I	S	C	A	S
		G	A	B		P	S	A	S	
S	T	A	M	O	S	E	T	H	I	C
M	I	S	T	A	K	E	S	L	O	L
U	R	S	A		I	C	U	E	W	A
G	E	O	M		P	O	P	Y	A	M

3-26

### CRYPTOQUIP

WQRGM RNG HWVGXZR XVXSJKR

QJZJKNGE EJSSJZS FH RNWR

IWVFWPVG QXKKJV, NG SWIG

JR RNG PMFKN-XQQ.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHEN YOU PACK TONS OF FLUFFY DUCK FEATHERS ONTO A TRANSPORT SHIP, I GUESS THAT'S DOWN-LOADING.


Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals F

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## Classifieds EUROPE

For information on Commercial Rates: CIV: 0631-3615-9012 or DSN: 583-9012

Announcements 040

Automotive 140

Autos for Sale  
• Germany 142

Tax Assistance 940

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# Sports REBOARD

## Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. [myafn.net](http://myafn.net)

## Pro soccer

### MLS Eastern Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
D.C. United	2	1	1	7	9	7
Cincinnati	2	1	1	7	9	7
Houston	2	1	1	7	9	7
Orlando City	2	0	0	6	7	3
Toronto FC	1	1	2	5	6	3
New York City FC	1	1	1	4	5	3
Philadelphia	0	0	3	3	4	4
New York City FC	0	0	3	3	4	4
Atlanta	0	2	1	1	4	5
Chicago	0	2	1	1	4	5
New England	0	2	1	1	4	5

### MLS Western Conference

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Los Angeles FC	3	0	0	9	10	3
Seattle	3	0	0	9	10	3
Portland Timbers	2	1	1	7	9	7
FC Dallas	2	1	1	7	9	7
Minnesota United	2	1	1	7	9	7
LA Galaxy	2	1	1	7	9	7
Portland Timbers	2	1	1	7	9	7
Seattle	2	1	1	7	9	7
San Jose	2	1	1	7	9	7
Colorado	0	2	2	2	5	8
Vancouver	0	3	0	0	4	7
San Jose	0	3	0	0	4	7

Note: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

### Sunday's game

FC Cincinnati 2, New England 0

### Friday, March 29

New York City FC at Toronto FC

### Saturday, March 30

New York at Chicago

Minnesota United at New England

Montreal at Sporting Kansas City

Los Angeles FC at San Jose

Portland at Columbus

Philadelphia at Cincinnati

Seattle at Real Salt Lake

Houston at Colorado

Seattle at Vancouver

### Sunday

### FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

FC Cincinnati 2, Revolution 0

## College basketball

### NIT Second Round

Friday, March 22

Creighton 79, Monmouth 69

Saturday, March 23

Indiana 63, Arkansas 60

Lipscomb 86, UNC Greensboro 69

Sunday, March 24

Wichita State 78, Texas Tech 75

N.C. State 78, Harvard 77

Toronto 88, Nebraska 72

Norfolk State (22-13) at Colorado (22-12)

Tuesday, March 26

Toronto (22-13) at Colorado (22-12)

Indiana (19-15) vs. Wichita State (21-14)

Wednesday, March 27

Lipscomb (27-7) vs. N.C. State (24-11)

Norfolk State-College of William & Mary vs. Texas (18-16)

CIT Second Round

Monday, March 25

Presbyterian (22-13) vs. Texas Rio Grande Valley (20-16)

Tuesday, March 26

Charleston Southern (18-15) vs. Hampton (17-17)

Green Bay (18-16)

Wednesday, March 27

Presbyterian (20-15) vs. Marshall (20-14)

Men's Division II tournament

Quarterfinals

at Evansville, Ind.

Wednesday, March 27

St. Anselm vs. Saint Anselm

Mercyhurst vs. Northwest Missouri State

West Texas A&M vs. Southern Indiana

Queens (NC) vs. Point Loma

Thursday, March 28

St. Anselm vs. Saint Anselm

Mercyhurst vs. Northwest Missouri State

West Texas A&M vs. Southern Indiana

Queens (NC) vs. Point Loma

Women's NIT

Second Round

Saturday, March 23

Toronto 71, Texas A&M 54

Butler 70, Kent State 52

Sunday, March 24

Virginia Tech 82, VCU 72

Ohio 98, Vanderbilt 54

Northwestern 54, Toledo 47

West Virginia 64, Villanova 57

Cincinnati 54, Minnesota 50

Georgetown 70, Harvard 65

Deals

Sunday's transactions

BASEBALL

American League

Baltimore Orioles - Options RHP

Everson, LHPs Josh Rogers and Tanner

Scott and C. Andrew Susac to Norfolk

(IL). Reassigned C. Carlos Perez, INF

Jackie Peterson, and C. Andrew Susac to

minor league camp

Major League Baseball - Options RHP

Jose Ruiz to Charlotte (IL). Signed

INF Brad Miller to a one-year contract. Placed

RHP Daniel Salazar on the 60-day list.

Major League Baseball - Options RHP

Justin Verlander to a three-year contract.

Major League Baseball - Options RHP

OF Tyler Wade to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre

(IL). Reassigned MLB Rule 5 draft select

OF Nick Green to the Yankees.

Major League Baseball - Options RHP

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Major League Baseball -

NHL

## Scoreboard

Eastern Conference									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
z-Tampa Bay	76	58	14	4	120	301	202		
x-Boston	75	47	21	7	101	233	189		
Washington	76	44	24	8	96	260	234		
N.Y. Islanders	76	44	25	7	95	212	184		
Toronto	75	44	25	6	94	264	223		
Pittsburgh	76	41	24	11	93	256	226		
N.Y. Rangers	75	40	27	8	91	225	206		
Montreal	76	40	28	8	88	227	219		
Columbus	75	41	30	4	86	228	218		
Philadelphia	75	41	31	4	89	239	252		
Florida	75	33	30	12	78	243	255		
Buffalo	74	31	34	9	71	206	244		
N.Y. Rangers	74	29	32	13	71	206	245		
New Jersey	76	28	39	9	65	208	259		
Los Angeles	75	27	38	10	63	233	265		
Ottawa	75	26	43	6	58	222	278		

Western Conference									
Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
x-Calgary	75	47	21	7	101	268	210		
x-San Jose	75	43	23	9	95	266	237		
x-Winnipeg	75	45	26	4	94	254	218		
Vegas	75	42	27	6	90	234	205		
Nashville	76	42	28	6	90	223	202		
St. Louis	75	40	27	8	88	223	205		
Dallas	75	38	31	6	82	188	186		
Colorado	76	34	29	13	81	240	229		
Minnesota	76	35	32	9	79	203	223		
Arizona	76	36	33	7	79	199	212		
Chicago	75	35	32	10	76	248	271		
Edmonton	75	33	34	8	74	213	249		
Vancouver	76	32	34	10	74	207	237		
Anaheim	77	31	36	10	70	216	251		
Los Angeles	74	27	39	8	62	178	235		

**Note:** Two points for a win, one point for an overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

x-clinched playoff spot

z-clinched conference

**Saturday's games**

New Jersey 2, Arizona 1, SO

N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 2

Colorado 4, Chicago 2

Ottawa 4, Edmonton 3, OT

N.Y. Rangers 2, Toronto 1, OT

Boston 7, Florida 3

Carolina 5, Minnesota 2

Winnipeg 5, Nashville 0

Montreal 7, Buffalo 4

Pittsburgh 3, Dallas 2

St. Louis 4, Tampa Bay 3

Calgary 3, Vancouver 1

Detroit 3, Vegas 2, OT

Los Angeles 4, Anaheim 3, SO

**Sunday's games**

Washington 3, Philadelphia 1

N.Y. Islanders 2, Arizona 0

Carolina 2, Montreal 1, OT

Chicago 2, Colorado 1, OT

Columbus 5, Vancouver 0

**Monday's games**

Pittsburgh at N.Y. Rangers

Buffalo at New Jersey

Florida at Toronto

Boston at Tampa Bay

Dallas at Winnipeg

Nashville at Minnesota

Vegas at St. Louis

Los Angeles at Calgary

Anaheim at Vancouver

**Tuesday's games**

N.Y. Islanders at Columbus

Carolina at Washington

Buffalo at Ottawa

Pittsburgh at Montreal

Los Angeles at Edmonton

Chicago at Arizona

Anaheim at Vancouver

**Wednesday's games**

Toronto at Philadelphia

N.Y. Rangers at Boston

Los Angeles at Calgary

Vegas at Colorado

**Calendar**

**April 6**—Last day of regular season.

**April 10**—Stanley Cup playoffs begin.

**May 27-June 1**—NHL scouting combine.

**June 15**—Last possible day for Stanley Cup Final, N.Y.

**June 20**—NHL general managers meeting.

**June 21**—NHL draft, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**June 22**—NHL draft, Vancouver, British Columbia.

**June 23**—NHL draft, Vancouver, British Columbia.

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Lowry, TOR	58	521	9.0
James, LAL	53	431	8.1
Young, ATL	74	583	7.9
Simmons, PHL	72	562	7.8

## SPORTS BRIEFS/AUTO RACING

## Briefly

Casey first repeat  
Inisbrook winner

Associated Press

PALM HARBOR, Fla. — Paul Casey became the first back-to-back winner of the Valspar Championship on Sunday by closing with a 1-over 72 for a one-shot victory over Jason Kokrak and Louis Oosthuizen.

Casey thought his biggest challenge would be Dustin Johnson, who was one shot behind. Instead, the world's No. 1 player failed to make a single birdie for the first time in 31 tournaments worldwide.

The real challenge was Inisbrook, so tough that no one shot better than 68 in the final round.

Kokrak (71) and Oosthuizen (69) each had a share of the lead on the back nine. Kokrak missed an 8-foot par putt on the final hole. Casey was in a fairway bunker on No. 18 when he hit to just over 20 feet and two-putted for the win.

It was the first time since this event joined the PGA Tour schedule in 2000 that the winner was over par in the final round. The course was so dry and fast that no one shot better than 68, and the average score of 72.143 was the second-toughest final round this year behind rainy, windy Riviera.

In other golf news:

■ Jin Young Ko rallied to win the Founders Cup in Phoenix for her third LPGA Tour victory, closing with a 7-under 65 for a one-stroke victory over four players.

The 23-year-old South Korean player birdied Nos. 14-16 and parred the final two to finish at 22-under 266 at Desert Ridge. She won when third-round leader Yu Liu missed a 15-foot par putt on the par-4 18th.

Eagles WR Maclin  
announces retirement

Former Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Jeremy Maclin has announced he is retiring from playing football after nine NFL seasons.

The 30-year-old Maclin announced his decision in a Twitter post Sunday. He adds that he will post a letter and video in the near future to explain why he is choosing to walk away from the game.

The speedy Maclin was the 10th overall pick by the Eagles in the 2009 draft out of Missouri and went on to play six seasons in Philadelphia. He made his only Pro Bowl as an alternate after the 2014 season when he had 85 catches for a career-best 1,318 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He signed a one-year, \$55 million contract this winter off-season with Kansas City. Maclin played two years for the Chiefs, who released him after the 2016 season. He spent the following season with Baltimore, where he had career lows of 40 receptions and 440 yards receiving. The Eagles released him in March 2018 and Maclin didn't play last season

while rehabilitating a hamstring injury.

Maclin finishes with 514 career catches for 6,835 yards and 49 TD catches.

Hunter leaving Georgia  
State for Tulane

ATLANTA — Less than 48 hours after Georgia State was eliminated from the NCAA Tournament, Ron Hunter decided Sunday to leave the Panthers to become Tulane's coach.

Best known for tumbling to the court after his son hit a game-winning shot in the 2015 tournament, Hunter told The Associated Press that he had received other offers in the past but thought this was perhaps his final chance to make a move.

Georgia State's season ended with an 84-55 loss to Houston on Friday. Hunter met the following day with Tulane officials for four hours and quickly realized it was time to move on after coaching the Panthers for eight seasons.

The 54-year-old Hunter takes over a Tulane men's basketball program that fired Mike Dunleavy after the Green Wave failed to win a game in the American Athletic Conference.

Syndergaard unhappy  
with Mets' decisions

PORST ST. LUCIE, Fla. — New York Mets pitcher Noah Syndergaard tuned up for the regular season with a couple fastballs — at his own organization.

Syndergaard questioned the Mets' treatment of ace Jacob deGrom and the organization's upcoming travel plans after he made his final appearance of spring training on Sunday.

The 30-year-old deGrom is hoping for a new contract before opening day after he won the NL Cy Young Award last season. But he seemed pessimistic about the possibility after he worked three perfect innings in his final spring outing on Saturday.

"I think Jake's the best pitcher in baseball right now," Syndergaard said. "I think they should just quit all this fuss and pay the man already."

New York's travel plans also had Syndergaard's attention. The Mets left Florida's East Coast after Sunday's 8-4 win over Washington for Sarasota — a three-hour bus ride over to the Gulf of Mexico.

The Mets close out the Grapefruit League on Monday and then fly to Syracuse for a Tuesday workout at the home of their new Triple-A affiliate. Then it's back on a plane to Washington for Thursday's season opener.

"I don't think that's conducive toward winning ballgames," Syndergaard said. "I think that much travel ... but those kinds of decisions are above my paygrade."



STEVE HELBER/AP

Steve Helber Brad Keselowski (2) leads Chase Elliott (9) as they drive into Turn 4 during Sunday's NASCAR Cup Series race at Martinsville Speedway in Martinsville, Va.

## Racing roundup

## Keselowski dominates

Associated Press

MARTINSVILLE, Va. — Brad Keselowski gave Team Penske and the new Ford Mustang its third Cup victory through the first six races of the season by routing the field at Martinsville Speedway.

Keselowski led 446 of the 500 laps around the shortest track on the NASCAR schedule and was only challenged a handful of times by Chase Elliott — the only driver to pass Keselowski on the track Sunday.

Although Elliott led 49 laps, a late caution sent the field to pit road and Keselowski beat Elliott back to the track. Elliott could never get close enough to challenge Keselowski for the win again.

"The car was really good. Just a great day for a team," Keselowski said. "Just one of those days you dream of as a race car driver, where you've got a great car."

The 446 laps led is the most for a winning driver since Kyle Petty led 484 to win at Rockingham in 1992. It was the most laps Keselowski has ever led in a single race, passing the mark of 312 laps out front at Texas Motor Speedway in 2015.

He credited the off-season work by Ford, which rolled out a new Cup car at the start of the season, and the Team Penske pit stops that got him off pit road first every time he came in for service.

"Ford worked really hard in the off-season to build these cars and make them real strong and so far, so good," said Keselowski. "It's just a great day for our team, awesome execution on pit road. Those guys work really hard."

Ford has three wins this season, all from Team Penske, while Toyota won the other three races.

Elliott finished second in a Chevrolet from Hendrick Motorsports — the first top-five finish for a Hendrick driver this season.

"I felt like we were about as even with him as we could be,"



ERIC GAY/AP

Colton Herta gets congratulations from driver Graham Rahal after winning the IndyCar Classic Sunday, in Austin, Texas. Herta, 18, became the youngest driver to win an IndyCar series race.

said Elliott, who second-guessed the timing of one of his attempts to pass Keselowski.

"When he did get the lead, there was a little advantage to being out front, being able to work traffic ... I tried to move up there at the end, and I don't know if I could have got to him. Maybe if I moved up a little sooner, maybe next time."

Kyle Busch was third in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing. Busch had won two consecutive Cup races before Sunday, the Truck Series race Saturday at Martinsville, and was seeking a weekend sweep. Busch notched his fifth top-five finish of the season while making his 1,000th career NASCAR national series start.

Penske driver Ryan Blaney was fourth, while Gibbs driver and five-time Martinsville winner Denny Hamlin was fifth.

Herta, 18, becomes youngest Indy winner

AUSTIN, Texas — Everything went Colton Herta's way on Sunday, from the victory on the race track to the sparkling wine on the podium instead of apple cider.

The 18-year American rookie

became the youngest winner in IndyCar history when he captured the IndyCar Classic after a late-race crash near the entry to pit road helped him steal past the leaders to the checkered flag.

Planked on the podium by 28-year-old Josef Newgarden and 38-year-old Ryan Hunter-Reay, Herta was handed a bottle of sparkling wine for the victory celebration while someone handed Newgarden the cider.

Herta's win also delivered the first victory for Harding Steinbrenner Racing, where George Steinbrenner IV — yes, of the Steinbrenner baseball family — is the youngest co-owner in series history and the youngest owner of a race-winning car at age 22.

"In this sport it takes perfect execution and a little bit of luck," Steinbrenner said. "We caught the little bit of luck ... and Colton did the rest."

Herta was running a distant third behind Team Penske's Will Power and Andreotti Autosports' Alexander Rossi until James Hinchcliff bumped rookie Felix Rosenqvist into a spin and then the wall near the entry to pit lane.

## WOMEN'S NCAA TOURNAMENT

## UConn, ASU advance to Sweet 16

By DOUG FEINBERG  
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Eight invitations to the Sweet 16 have been delivered and the other eight were to be determined Monday night.

UConn's back in the regional semifinals for the 26th consecutive year. The Huskies had to work for it as pesky Buffalo rallied from a 24-point, third-quarter deficit to get within eight in the fourth before the Huskies won by 12. It was UConn's closest game in the second round since a two-point victory over Xavier in 1999. The next-closest was a 15-point win over TCU in 2003.

"It's been kind of that type of year for us, where things just don't naturally happen the way they have before, and for us that's good preparation," UConn senior Katie Lou Samuelson said. "That shows that when things go wrong, when things happen, we can always pick up what we need to do and pick up the next person down."

While reaching the Sweet 16 seems to be a rite of spring for the Huskies, other teams will be trying to make it there for the first time in a long time. The last time Missouri State advanced to the regional semifinals, assistant coach Jackie Stiles was leading the Lady Bears to an incredible Final Four run in 2001. For the team to get to the next round, they'll have to contend with Iowa State and a rowdy crowd at ISU's Hilton Coliseum.

Arizona State and Texas A&M needed big plays in the final few seconds to reach the next round in wins over Miami and Marquette, respectively.

Oregon had a little easier time advancing to its third consecutive Sweet 16. Sabrina Ionescu was a big reason why, getting her 18th career triple-double and second in the NAAs. She became the second player to do it multiple times in the tournament, joining former Stanford great Nicole Powell.

Ionescu got her 10th rebound to reach the stat milestone in the



Buffalo's Brittany Morrison, right, pressures Connecticut's Megan Walker during the first half of a second-round NCAA Tournament game on Sunday in Storrs, Conn. UConn won 84-72.

final few minutes when she rebounded her own miss.

"I knew exactly where it was going to go," she said. "Let me add a little more rotation on this shot so I can get it back."

### Still unbeaten

The Pac-12 has yet to lose in the postseason, improving to 8-0 after wins by Arizona State and Oregon. Throw in two victories by Arizona in the WNIT and the conference is unblemished.

"I was able to tell the team yesterday, there's nothing that this team can show us that we haven't seen and the conference hasn't prepared you for this. How many close games has this group been

in down the stretch of the year?" Oregon State coach Scott Rueck said. "You have the confidence to get the stops and to score and to execute."

### Home sweet home

Baylor has been dominant at home — during the regular season and in the women's NCAA Tournament.

The California Golden Bears know all too well the difficulty of playing the perennial Big 12 champion Bears in Waco during the postseason. They are 0-2 there, with those losses by significant margins.

For the third time in six years, the Golden Bears won an opening-round game in the Ferrell Center to set up a matchup against the host team — they overcame an early 12-point deficit and beat North Carolina 92-72 on Saturday. Cal lost by 19 to Baylor in 2014, the year after an NCAA Final Four appearance, and two years ago ended their season with an 86-46 loss in Waco.

"We were very, very young when we came the last time, and I think that's a huge difference, just players having been here before, having gone through a lot of different experiences in the life of a basketball player," Cal coach Lindsay Gottlieb said.

After overwhelming NCAA Tournament first-timer Abilene Christian 95-38 in the first round Saturday night, Baylor has won 15 consecutive NCAA Tournament games at home since 2011 and won those games by an average margin of 37 points.

The Lady Bears are 16-0 at home this season, and have won

38 in a row overall in Waco. They are 148-31 in non-conference home games in coach Kim Mulkey's 19 seasons, and have won 48 in a row since losing in January 2014 to UConn, which was the No. 1 team in the country when losing at Waco this season.

### Happy anniversary

Monday's game will be played exactly 41 years after UCLA beat Maryland 90-74 to win the AIAW national championship, a precursor to the NCAA Tournament.

"That's pretty amazing," UCLA coach Cori Close said. "I think it's really good to pause and say thank you to the people that were involved in those games, thank you to the people that really lived up to Title IX in an amazing, courageous way. Now we get opportunities that would have never been there without their sacrifice."

### Growing the game

Rueck spoke about how the NCAA Tournament allows women's basketball to attract more fans — even in Corvallis, which is known for its support of the sport and the home team.

"That's what I've loved about our community. They've embraced us," he said. "I always joke, I know we've got the women's basketball fans, and we're going to do great things for them."

"I want the football fans," he said. "I want the men's basketball fan that maybe has never given a chance. Give us a shot, and be careful because you're going to get hooked."

## Scoreboard

### GREENSBORO REGIONAL

First Round  
Saturday, March 23

At Waco, Texas  
California 57, North Carolina 72  
Baylor 95, Abilene Christian 38

At Raleigh, N.C.  
Kentucky 83, Princeton 77  
N.C. State 63, Maine 50

Second Round  
Sunday, March 24

At Charlotte, N.C.  
South Carolina 72, Florida State 64  
Iowa 68, Missouri 52

Monday, March 25

At Waco, Texas  
Baylor (32-1) vs. California (20-12)  
At Raleigh, N.C.

Kentucky (25-7) vs. N.C. State (27-5)

Regional Semifinals  
Saturday, March 30

At Greensboro, N.C.  
Baylor-California winner vs. South Carolina (23-8)

Kentucky-N.C. State winner vs. Iowa (28-6)

Regional Championship  
Monday, April 1

At Greensboro, N.C.  
Semifinal winners

PORTLAND REGIONAL  
First Round

Saturday, March 23

At Syracuse, N.Y.  
South Dakota State 76, Quinnipiac 65  
Syracuse 70, Fordham 49

Second Round  
Sunday, March 24

At Starkville, Miss.  
Mississippi State 85, Clemson 61

At Coral Gables, Fla.  
Arizona State 57, Miami 39

Oregon 91, Indiana 68

Monday, March 25

At Syracuse, N.Y.  
South Dakota State (27-6) vs. Syracuse (25-8)

Regional Semifinals  
Friday, March 29

At Portland, Ore.  
Mississippi State (32-2) vs. Arizona State (22-10)

South Dakota State-Syracuse winner vs. Oregon (31-4)

Regional Championship  
Sunday, March 31

At Portland, Ore.  
Semifinal winners

CHICAGO REGIONAL  
First Round

Saturday, March 23

At Notre Dame, Ind.  
Notre Dame 92, Bethune-Cookman 50  
Michigan 59, Michigan State 30

At Ames, Iowa  
Missouri State 89, DePaul 78  
Iowa State 97, New Mexico State 61

At St. Louis, Mo.  
BYU 73, Auburn 64  
Stanford 79, UC Davis 54

Second Round  
Sunday, March 24

At College Station, Texas  
Texas A&M 78, Marquette 76

Monday, March 25

At Notre Dame, Ind.  
Notre Dame (31-2) vs. Michigan State (21-11)

At Ames, Iowa  
Missouri State (23-9) vs. Iowa State (26-8)

At Stanford, Calif.  
BYU (26-6) vs. Stanford (29-4)

Regional Semifinals  
Saturday, March 30

At Chicago  
Notre Dame-Michigan State winner vs. Texas A&M (26-7)

State winner vs. BYU-Stanford winner

Regional Championship  
Monday, April 1

At Chicago  
Semifinal winners

ALBANY REGIONAL  
First Round

Saturday, March 23

At Corvallis, Ore.

Gonzaga 68, Little Rock 51

Oregon State 80, Boise State 75, OT

At College Park, Md.

Maryland 73, Radford 51

UCLA 89, Tennessee 57

Second Round

Sunday, March 24

At Louisville, Ky.

Louisville 71, Michigan 50

At Storrs, Conn.

UConn 84, Buffalo 72

Monday, March 25

At Corvallis, Ore.

Gonzaga (29-4) vs. Oregon State (25-7)

At College Park, Md.

UCLA (21-2) vs. Maryland (25-4)

Regional Semifinals

Friday, March 29

At Albany, N.Y.

Regional Championship

Sunday, March 31

At Albany, N.Y.

Semifinal winners

FINAL FOUR

At Tampa, Fla.

National Semifinals

Friday, April 5

Greensboro winner vs. Portland winner

Albany winner vs. Chicago winner

National Championship

Sunday, April 7

Semifinal winners



LUIS M. ALVAREZ/AP

Arizona State players celebrate Sunday after defeating Miami 57-55 during the second round of the Women's NCAA Tournament in Coral Gables, Fla. The Sun Devils shot just 35 percent in the win.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

Virginia's Mamadi Diakite drives to the basket for two of his 14 points while defended by Oklahoma's Matt Freeman on Sunday.

## Scoreboard

**FIRST FOUR**  
**Tuesday, March 19**  
 Fairleigh Dickinson 62, Prairie View A&M 76  
 Belmont 81, Temple 70  
**Wednesday, March 20**  
 North Dakota State 78, N.C. Central 74  
 Arizona State 74, St. John's 65

**EAST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 21**  
 At Jacksonville, Fla.  
 LSU 79, Yale 74  
 Maryland 78, Belmont 77  
 At Des Moines, Iowa  
 Minnesota 86, Louisville 76  
 Michigan State 76, Bradley 65  
**Friday, March 22**  
 At Columbia, S.C.  
 Duke 85, North Dakota State 62  
 UCF 73, VCU 58

**At San Jose, Calif.**  
 Liberty 80, Mississippi State 76  
 Virginia Tech 66, Saint Louis 52  
**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 23**  
 At Jacksonville, Fla.  
 LSU 69, Maryland 67  
 At Des Moines, Iowa  
 Michigan State 70, Minnesota 50

**Sunday, March 24**  
 At Columbia, S.C.  
 Duke 77, UCF 76  
**At San Jose, Calif.**  
 Virginia Tech 67, Liberty 58  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**At Washington**  
**Friday, March 29**  
 Duke (31-5) vs. Virginia Tech (26-8)  
 Michigan State (30-6) vs. LSU (28-6)

**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 31**  
 Semifinal winners

**SOUTH REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 21**  
 At Hartford, Conn.  
 Villanova 61, Saint Mary's 57  
 Purdue 61, Old Dominion 48  
**Friday, March 22**  
 At Columbia, S.C.  
 Oklahoma 85, Mississippi 72  
 Virginia 71, Gardner-Webb 56

**At Columbus, Ohio**  
 Iowa 79, Cincinnati 71  
 Tennessee 77, Colgate 70  
**At San Jose, Calif.**  
 UC Irvine 76, Kansas State 64  
 Oregon 72, Wisconsin 54

**Second Round**  
**Sunday, March 23**  
 At Hartford, Conn.  
 Purdue 87, Villanova 61  
**Sunday, March 24**  
 At Columbia, S.C.  
 Virginia 81, Oklahoma 58  
 At Columbus, Ohio  
 Tennessee 83, Iowa 77

**At San Jose, Calif.**  
 Oregon 73, UC Irvine 54  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**At Louisville, Ky.**  
**Thursday, March 28**  
 Virginia (31-3) vs. Oregon (26-12)  
 Tennessee (31-5) vs. Purdue (25-9)  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 30**  
 Semifinal winners

**MIDWEST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 21**  
 At Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Kentucky 79, Abilene Christian 44  
 Wofford 84, Seton Hall 58  
**At Salt Lake City**  
 Auburn 78, New Mexico State 77  
 Kansas 87, Northwestern 53

**Friday, March 22**  
 At Columbus, Ohio  
 Washington 78, Utah State 61  
 North Carolina 85, Iowa 73  
**At Tulsa, Okla.**  
 Houston 84, Georgia State 55  
 Ohio State 62, Iowa State 59

**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 23**  
 At Jacksonville, Fla.  
 Kentucky 62, Wofford 56  
**At Salt Lake City**  
 Auburn 89, Kansas 75  
**Sunday, March 24**  
 At Columbus, Ohio  
 North Carolina 81, Washington 59

**At Tulsa, Okla.**  
 Houston 74, Ohio State 59  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**At Kansas City, Mo.**  
**Friday, March 29**  
 North Carolina (29-6) vs. Auburn (28-9)  
 Kentucky (29-6) vs. Houston (33-3)

**Regional Championship**  
**Sunday, March 31**  
 Semifinal winners

**WEST REGIONAL**  
**First Round**  
**Thursday, March 21**  
 At Hartford, Conn.  
 Florida State 76, Vermont 59  
 Murray State 83, Marquette 64  
**At Des Moines, Iowa**  
 Florida 70, Nevada 51  
 Michigan 74, Montana 55

**At Salt Lake City**  
 Gonzaga 87, Fairleigh Dickinson 49  
 Baylor 78, Syracuse 69  
**Friday, March 22**  
**At Tulsa, Okla.**  
 Texas Tech 72, Northern Kentucky 57  
 Buffalo 91, Arizona State 74

**Second Round**  
**Saturday, March 23**  
 At Hartford, Conn.  
 Florida State 90, Murray State 62  
**At Des Moines, Iowa**  
 Michigan 64, Florida 49  
**At Salt Lake City**  
 Gonzaga 83, Baylor 68

**Sunday, March 24**  
 At Tulsa, Okla.  
 Texas Tech 78, Buffalo 58  
**Regional Semifinals**  
**At Anaheim, Calif.**  
**Thursday, March 28**  
 Gonzaga (32-3) vs. Florida State (29-7)  
 Michigan (30-6) vs. Texas Tech (28-6)  
**Regional Championship**  
**Saturday, March 30**  
 Semifinal winners

**FINAL FOUR**  
**At U.S. Bank Stadium**  
**Minneapolis**  
**National Semifinals**  
**Saturday, April 6**  
 East vs. West  
 South vs. Midwest  
**National Championship**  
**Sunday, April 8**  
 Semifinal winners

## Roundup

## No. 1 Virginia finally gets an easy win over Oklahoma

Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Virginia coach Tony Bennett made a last-minute change in his starting lineup and the top-seeded Cavaliers finally breezed through an NCAA Tournament game to make their first Sweet 16 in three years.

Bennett opted for Mamadi Diakite to start instead of Jack Salt against Oklahoma and the junior scored 14 points and had nine rebounds to lead the Cavaliers to a 63-51 win on Sunday night.

"Starting is big to me, it's a big challenge," Diakite said. "Coach is telling you, 'OK, you have the responsibility to help the team, and we're trusting you.'"

Virginia (31-3) has spent most of this season focused on improving from last year's NCAA Tournament bust. The Cavaliers last season became the first overall No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 16 against UMBC, prompting motivational speeches from Bennett, who told them the pain of the unprecedented defeat was simply setting them up for amazing success down the road.

But the tournament opener against No. 16 seed Gardner-Webb was shaky and Virginia trailed by as many as 14 before rallying for the first-round victory.

Diakite started the second half against Gardner-Webb and played well enough to convince Bennett he was back with the mental toughness this Virginia team needs.

"To be able to handle adversity or a hard start, that's a separator for a lot of players. He's definitely coming in the right direction, and he was terrific," Bennett said.

Diakite also made a difference on the defensive end. He matched up with Kristian Doolittle and held him to eight points on 4 of 10 shooting after the junior pushed Oklahoma into the second round with a 15-point performance against Mississippi.

"He made it really tough on me to get the shots I wanted," Doolittle said.

There was only one scare for the Cavaliers in the second-round matchup and it was rather mild: Virginia scored the first seven points of the game, but Oklahoma (20-14) answered with a 13-2 run to take its only lead.

Virginia cranked up its trademark stifling defense and the Sooners hit just four of their last 18 shots in the first half to fall behind 31-22 at the break. After a Kheli Clark rebound and putback on the first possession of the second half, Virginia's lead never dipped below 10 points again.

It was the first time Virginia hasn't trailed in the second half of an NCAA Tournament game since beating Iowa State 84-71 in the Sweet 16 in 2016.

"I'm certainly felt good," Bennett said.

**Tennessee 83, Iowa 77:** Two-time SEC player of the year Grant Williams scored six points in overtime and the Vols held off the Hawkeyes to reach the Sweet 16 for the first time since 2014.

Williams had a pair of free throws, two jumpers, and a strip in overtime that helped Tennessee (31-5) pull it out and match the school record for wins in a season. He finished with 19 points and seven rebounds.

Tenth-seeded Iowa (23-12) fell behind by 25 points and nearly pulled off a monumental upset, sending it to overtime tied at 71, the first overtime game in this year's tournament.

Jordan Bohannon scored 18 for Iowa, which never led but managed to tie it twice after falling so far behind.

## East Regional

**Virginia Tech 67, Liberty 58:** At San Jose, Calif., Kerry Blackshear had 19 points and nine rebounds as the fourth-seeded Hokies advanced to the Sweet 16 for the first time in 52 years.

Ahmed Hill added 14 points and Justin Robinson scored 13 to help Virginia Tech (25-8) beat an in-state rival and advance to a matchup with top-seeded Duke.

Darius McChesney scored 15 points to lead Liberty (29-7), which won its first tournament game ever on Friday against Mississippi State.

## Midwest Regional

**Houston 74, Ohio State 59:** At Tulsa, Okla., Corey Davis scored 21 points to help Houston defeat Ohio State.

It marked the Cougars' 33rd win of the season — breaking the record set by the 1983-84 team

for the most wins in a season. That squad was the last to reach the Sweet 16 and advanced to the national final.

Galen Robinson added 13 points for Houston (33-3), which will face Kentucky.

C.J. Jackson scored 18 points and Kaleb Wesson added 15 for Ohio State (20-5).

**North Carolina 81, Washington 59:** At Columbus, Ohio, Luke Maye and Nassir Little each scored 20 points and the top-seeded Tar Heels breezed past the Huskies.

North Carolina (29-6) never trailed and move on to face fifth-seeded Auburn on Friday in a regional semifinal.

The Tar Heels led by eight points at the break but put together a 13-0 run in the second half and pulled away.

Pac-12 player of the year Jaylen Nowell paced Washington (28-8) with 12 points.

## West Regional

**Texas Tech 78, Buffalo 58:** At Tulsa, Okla., Jarrett Culver had 16 points, 10 rebounds and five assists in the third-seeded Red Raiders' rout of the Bulls.

Norens Odisei contributed a season-high 14 points and 15 rebounds for Texas Tech (28-6), which has won 11 of its past 12 contests and reached the Sweet 16 for the second straight year.

Nick Perkins had 17 points and 10 rebounds for Buffalo (32-4), which had won 13 consecutive games. Leading scorer C.J. Massenburg, who averaged 18.3 points per game, had just two in the first half and four after eight minutes of the second before picking up 10 more down the stretch with the game already decided.



JEFF CHU/AP

Virginia Tech's Ahmed Hill celebrates after scoring against Liberty during a second-round game in the NCAA Tournament on Sunday. The Hokies advanced to the Sweet 16, where they'll meet Duke.

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

## Williamson lifts Duke over UCF

Top-seeded Blue Devils survive behind 32 points from freshman phenom

By PETE IACOBELLI  
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Zion Williamson took on 7-foot-6 Taco Fall at the end and won. So did top-seeded Duke — barely — when two last-ditch shots by UCF rolled off the rim.

Williamson had 32 points and helped rally the Blue Devils from behind in the final minute for a 77-76 victory Sunday to reach the Sweet 16.

Aubrey Dawkins finished with 32 points for the Knights, but his tip-in try just missed in the final seconds.

Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski “talks a lot about the basketball gods,” a happy Williamson said. “They had our backs today.”

Williamson was key to the rally. He made a layup over Fall with 14.4 seconds left to draw Duke within a point as Fall fouled out on the play. Williamson missed the free throw, but RJ Barrett scored on a putback to put the Blue Devils (31-5) ahead.

Barrett said he had watched plenty of NCAA Tournament games where players missed foul shots and an offensive rebound could have made the difference.

“I was going to do whatever I can to get this rebound,” he said.

Duke will face fourth-seeded Virginia Tech in Washington, D.C., on Friday night for a spot in the Elite Eight.



RICHARD SHIRO/AP

Duke's Zion Williamson, center, celebrates the team's 77-76 win over Central Florida in the second round of the NCAA Tournament in Columbia, S.C., on Sunday. Williamson finished with 32 points while helping the Blue Devils rally in the final minute.

## Amin sparks Oregon in win over UC Irvine

By JOSH DUBOW  
Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Ehab Amin started the second half by cheering on his Oregon teammates from the bench during a scoring drought that seemed like it would never end.

When the fifth-year senior got into the game, he provided a jolt of energy that carried Oregon to the Sweet 16.

Amin's three-pointer ended a run of 14 straight points for UC Irvine and provided the pivotal spark that helped the Ducks become the lone double-digit seed to advance to next weekend by beating UC Irvine 73-54 on Sunday night.

“Once we got a couple of baskets, our energy level went way up,” coach Dana Altman said. “Ehab had some key steals and then we just started bouncing around again. But we were stuck in the mud. I put them to sleep at halftime with my speech.”

Peyton Pritchard led 12th-seeded Oregon (25-12) with 18 points. Louis King added 16 and Amin had 12 points and three steals. The Ducks have won 10 straight after a lullstart to the season and will play top-seeded Virginia on Thursday.

“They fought back and came back and we could have been dead in the water again, but we're resilient,” Pritchard said. “Just credit to this team and what we're capable of.”



JEFF CHIU/AP

Oregon forward Louis King celebrates after scoring against UC Irvine during their second-round NCAA Tournament game on Sunday in San Jose, Calif.

After going more than seven minutes without scoring to start the second half and squandering all of a 12-point lead, Oregon used a 15-3 run to take control and end a 17-game winning streak for the 13th-seeded Anteaters (31-6).

Amin started it with a three-pointer and

caused two turnovers. Pritchard scored seven points in the spurt, and the game quickly turned into a laughter with Kenny Wooten getting a block on one end and an alley-oop on the other to make it 68-49 with just more than two minutes to play.

Robert Cartwright scored 14 points and Evan Leonard added 11 for UC Irvine, which came into the game with longest active winning streak in the nation.

“I feel like we gave everything we had, and I know the final score isn't indicative of how hard we played tonight and our entire season, but looking back on it, we're extremely grateful that we've had this experience,” Cartwright said. “I know we believe we could have gone farther.”

The Anteaters looked like an entirely different team coming out of halftime starting with a 3-pointer by Cartwright on the opening possession. That started a run of 14 points in a row that put UC Irvine ahead 37-35 on a layup by Cartwright.

The Ducks missed their first 11 shots from the field and committed four turnovers before finally breaking through on Amin's 3-pointer that ended a drought of 7:32. Amin then drew a charge, and King followed with another three that put Oregon up 41-37 midway through the half.

“As soon as Ehab made that basket I knew he was going to turn it on for us,” Wooten said. “Then he got a charge. That's all the energy we needed.”

## Chalk: Cinderella sitting out Sweet 16

## FROM BACK PAGE

But it's rare this many single-digit teams still have a shot at cutting down the net.

Think that's improbable? Consider this, the NCAA bracket tracker says one perfect bracket remains across all major online bracket games, including Yahoo, ESPN, CBS, Fox, Sports Illustrated and the NCAA's own contest. It's the longest streak of correct bracket picks, breaking the reported record of 39 games, which happened in 2017.

The NCAA says the odds of a perfect bracket are 1 in 9.2 quintillion — so better, take the under.

Just imagine if the entrant named “Center Road” in the NCAA's bracket challenge had bet the house on a 48-team money line parlay! For any fan who has a shot at entering one of those second-chance pools, take note: “Center Road” has Duke, Michigan State, Gonzaga, Michigan, Virginia, Tennessee, North Carolina and Kentucky as the Elite Eight. Oh, and if you believe “Center Road,” roll the dice on Gonzaga to beat Kentucky in the national championship game.

Cinderella will take a rain check to this party, please.

The favorites don't mind if the trend continues for another week.

“Everyone is talking about a Final Four, but I've never been to a Sweet 16,” Virginia guard Ty Jerome said.

The Big 12 has kept the conference from perfection. No. 4 seed Kansas State was surprised by UC Irvine and No. 4 seed Kansas was knocked out by fifth-seeded Auburn, which was actually favored by sportsbooks over the Jayhawks. While not among the top 16 seeds, sixth-seeded Villanova also lost, guaranteeing a new national champion will be crowned in Minneapolis.

■ The 1s: Duke, Virginia, UNC, Gonzaga.

■ The 2s: Michigan State, Michigan, Tennessee, Kentucky.

■ The 3s: LSU, Texas Tech, Purdue and Houston.

■ The 4s: FSU and Virginia Tech.

When the betting favorite wins, gamblers call it going chalk, an old-school slang term still common in an era where pools are now nearly ubiquitous. It might have to be bought in bulk for a tournament where the 12th-seeded Oregon Ducks are the only double-digit seed in the Sweet 16. The casinos surely could have used a few more upsets to keep the sportsbook a winner.

But for fans who want the best teams still alive and playing for it all, next weekend could be as good as it gets.



JOHN MINICILLA/AP

North Carolina's Nassir Little shoots against Washington's Matisse Thybault during Sunday's second-round NCAA Tournament game in Columbus, Ohio.

NFL

# Pats' Gronkowski announces retirement

Expect to see more of fun-loving TE

By DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

Rob Gronkowski the football player is finished.

Yeah, but what about Gronk? Well, the party is about to go bazooka.

Look out for Gronk gone wild, Gronk unhinged, Gronk unleashed. Without football strings attached, Gronkowski is suddenly a hot free agent year-round, his talents pitched to far more than 32 suitors, from Hollywood to endorsements to, well, whatever Gronk wants.

He was fun-loving and fearless, a dominant tight end whose Super Bowls were won with New England and whose playful personality won over even the most casual fans. Gronkowski, who announced Sunday that he is retiring from the NFL after nine mostly dominant, title-filled seasons, set scores of records for the Patriots at his position and could light up the scoreboard like his smile can light up a room.

The numbers only told a speck of the story.

Super Bowl wins were great. Boy, was it so much more fun just being Gronk.

He stood tall at the Super Bowl and WrestleMania; won big games and took on gamers; starred on the field and in film; and did it all with a goofy charm that belied a gritty tight end who seemingly always played through pain. The Pats are going to miss Gronkowski as they try for yet another Super Bowl championship.

But Gronk's not going anywhere.

No let's take a look at what made Gronk so great, and what could be ahead:

## Gronk the GOAT

Gronkowski never would have had a sustained run as a popular pitchman, hosted kids shows or popped up in movies had he not been one of the greatest tight ends — yeah, probably the greatest — in NFL history.

Gronkowski was hobbled by injuries last season and played just 13 games, and each ache raised constant questions about possible retirement. Gronkowski had plenty left in the Super Bowl and still had clutch catches in the tank on New England's final drive. He had two catches on the Patriots' go-ahead touchdown drive, the second catch set up Sony Michel's 2-yard score in the win over the Rams.

Tom Brady to Gronk, one more time for a title.

"I like making big catches like that," Gronkowski said.

He had 10 catches for 145 yards and three touchdowns in New England's win at Denver in an AFC Divisional playoff win in 2011. Gronkowski might have been more impressive in the 2015



CHRIS O'MEARA/AP

The Patriots' Rob Gronkowski, right, makes a touchdown catch against the Eagles' Ronald Darby in Super Bowl 52. Gronkowski announced his decision to retire on Sunday via a post on Instagram.

AFC championship game, when he converted two fourth-down attempts on the game's final drive and had eight receptions for 144 yards and one touchdown, perhaps his best effort in a crushing defeat.

Gronkowski averaged nearly 69 yards per game and cracked juvenile jokes about setting a record 69 TDs for a tight end, thanking his mom when he reached the mark. He finished with 79 TDs receiving and one rushing.

## Gronk gone wild

The final image of Gronkowski in a Patriots uniform, greatness.

The final image of Gronk out of uniform, hilarious. He celebrated the Super Bowl title on the parade route by stripping off his shirt, chugging beers, flipping his hat backward and acting like a frat boy on a float. A hurled beer from the crowd that ricocheted off his hulking chest was the final hit in his career.

Gronk seemed to make as many TMZ clips as NFL Films highlights.

Earlier this month, TMZ reported, "Gronk and his bikini model girlfriend have taken their hotness to sea ... 'cause the couple put on one hell of a twerk fest on a boat in Mexico." Peter King prose, this was not.

Who knows where Gronk will end up in retirement.

Gronkowski has a standing offer from WWE to move from the gridiron to the squared circle and become a professional wrestler like his childhood friend, Mojo Rawley. Gronkowski stormed over the barricade at WrestleMania in 2017 and bro-hugged Rawley after he won the Andre the Giant battle royal.

Gronk vs. The Rock? Gronk vs. Brock?

With WrestleMania just weeks away, the goofy Gronkowski could crash the show again and get mixed up in more shenanigans. Heck, "Gronk" doesn't even need to make up a ring name.

## Gronk the entertainer

Gronkowski might find his NFL bio condensed on a Hall of Fame plaque down the road but there's almost no way it could fit in his

offseason activities. Gronkowski was a hit with the average fan — from kids to grandparents — because of his endearing persona that made him about as A-list as any athlete. He had a personal "Talk with Gronk" that poked fun at any idiot who wanted to eat a Tide Pod. He hosted "Crashletes" on Nickelodeon, was a fed a beer bong with Patriots teammate Julian Edelman in the "Entourage" movie, and played a heightened, animated version of Gronk on "Family Guy."

Late night TV host Conan O'Brien once invited Gronkowski and Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch to play a stirring game of "Mortal Kombat."

Gronkowski found Victory Lane just as fun as the end zone when he parted with Daytona 500 winner Kurt Busch and team owner Tony Stewart in 2017. He had Monster Energy drinks and Monster girls all around him, a winning combo in an offseason pit stop for Gronk.

"I'm just having a blast," he said. "I never really got to tailgate. I never really got to run around (on Sundays). It's cool to run around and meet people, enjoy the atmosphere, see what really goes down on this side of the stadium."

## Gronk Said It

"Yo soy fiesta."

Always the life of the party, Gronkowski quipped he was the party in an interview with ESPN Deportes after one of New England's Super Bowl wins. He was a hit in any language, especially compared to the milquetoast Brady. Among his best just-for-fun laughs, taking reading erotic Gronk fiction to Jimmy Kimmel such as, "I would have the pleasure to spike a football between butt cheeks," he told a Boston talk radio station that he was a virgin and said Patriots fans were "going bazooka" at Gillette Stadium.

But he went from whimsical to warm on the Insta post where he called it a career.

"Cheers to all who have been part of the journey," he wrote, "cheers to the past for the incredible memories, and a HUGE cheers to the uncertainty of what's next."

Four-time All Pro leaves as one of top players in his era

By KYLE HIGHTOWER  
Associated Press

BOSTON — The party's over for Rob Gronkowski. Then again, it might just be getting started.

The New England Patriots' fun-loving, touchdown-spiking tight end announced Sunday that he is retiring from the NFL after nine mostly dominant, Super Bowl-filled seasons.

The four-time All-Pro posted his decision on Instagram, saying that a few months shy of his 30th birthday "it's time to move forward and move forward with a big smile."

"It all started at 20 years old on stage at the NFL Draft when my dream came true, and now here I am about to turn 30 in a few months with a decision I feel is the biggest of my life so far," Gronkowski wrote in his post. "I will be retiring from the game of football today."

Drew Rosenhaus, Gronkowski's agent, confirmed his client's decision to retire.

The playmaking tight end, who turns 30 in May, leaves as a three-time Super Bowl champion who established himself as one of the most dominant players at his position and one of Tom Brady's favorite targets.

"In the nine years that I have known Rob Gronkowski, I have never known him to have a bad day," Patriots owner Robert Kraft said in a statement. "He always has a youthful exuberance about him and is a joy to be around."

But Gronkowski has been dogged in recent seasons by back, knee, ankle and arm injuries that have limited his ability to stay on the field.

It led him to hint at retirement following New England's Super Bowl loss to the Philadelphia Eagles to end the 2017 season and again last month after the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Los Angeles Rams.

In his Instagram post, Gronkowski thanked the Patriots organization, coach Bill Belichick and New England's fans for their support during his nine NFL seasons.

"Thank you for everyone accepting who I am and the dedication I have put into my work to be the best player I could be," Gronkowski wrote.

Belichick said Gronkowski was a major reason the Patriots won championships.

"His production spoke for itself, but his daily attitude, unmistakably positive energy wherever he went and toward whoever he touched will never be forgotten," Belichick said in a statement.

Gronkowski's teammates also almost immediately began to flood social media with well-wishes.

"Love you man!" Brady wrote on Instagram, along with an emoji of a goat to refer to Gronkowski

ki as the greatest of all-time. "Couldn't be a better person or teammate!!!!"

Though he won't have the longevity of some of his contemporaries at tight end, Gronkowski is expected to get strong consideration for the Pro Football Hall of Fame when eligible.

Gronkowski, a second-round pick in the 2010 draft, had his fourth career 1,000-yard receiving season in 2017 and was an All-Pro for the fourth time that season.

But at times he looked like a shell of himself during the Patriots' Super Bowl run this past season. Gronkowski finished the 2018 regular season with just 47 catches for 682 yards and three touchdowns.

He had one of his best games of the season in the Patriots' Super Bowl win over the Rams, hauling in six catches for 87 yards, including two receptions on New England's only touchdown drive during their 13-3 victory.

A fan favorite in New England for his gregarious and playful persona, Gronkowski was one of the most dominant tight ends of his era.

His 12 career postseason touchdown receptions are the most by a tight end in NFL playoff history. His 81 career postseason catches are also best among tight ends.

He'll also retire with 79 career TD catches which is third all-time by a tight end behind only Antonio Gates (116) and Tony Gonzalez (111).

Brady and Gronkowski connected on 78 TD passes. It is the second-most scoring connections between a quarterback and a tight end in NFL history behind only Philip Rivers and Gates (89) and is fifth overall between quarterbacks and all pass-catchers.

"Rob will leave an indelible mark on the Patriots organization and the game," Brady said, "as among the best, most complete players at his position to ever play."



MATT ROUKKE/AP

The Patriots Rob Gronkowski celebrates after New England's Super Bowl victory in 2015.

# Goodbye, Gronk

# SPORTS



## Patriots' larger-than-life three-time Super Bowl winning TE set to retire:

- Gronkowski on Instagram post: 'Time to move forward ... with a big smile', Page 31
- Fun-loving personality likely to be in high demand off the field, Page 31

## NCAA TOURNAMENT

# GOING CHALK

Top three seeds in each region in the Sweet 16 for the first time since '09

By DAN GELSTON  
Associated Press

**C**halk one up for the seeded favorite in the NCAA Tournament.

The biggest upset this March isn't a wild heave at the horn for a winner from a No. 15 seed or a First Four team somehow weaving into the second weekend — it's the lack of genuine stunners to shake up the bracket.

The top seeds are still at the top of the tourney.

The field has the top three seeds in each region in the Sweet 16 for only the second time (2009) since the bracket expanded in 1985. It's tied with 2009 for the most top four seeds (14) in the Sweet 16.

Sure, Virginia had to sweat out another tourney opener.

And Duke was a tip-in away from being done.

SEE CHALK ON PAGE 30



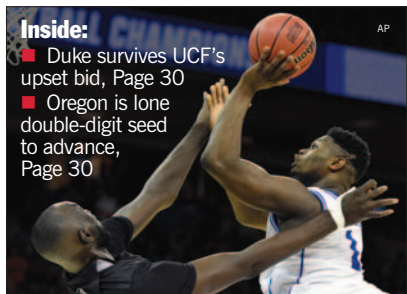
Houston's Armoni Brooks celebrates in the final seconds of the Cougars' 74-59 win over Ohio State in the second round of the NCAA Tournament on Sunday in Tulsa, Okla.

JEFF ROBERSON/AP

### Inside:

■ Duke survives UCF's upset bid, Page 30

■ Oregon is lone double-digit seed to advance, Page 30



UConn holds on, advances to Sweet 16 » NCAA women, Page 28

